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# PARADISE LOST

A P O E M

IN TWELVE BOOKS

WRITTEN BY

J O H N M I L T O N.

Τον πέρι Μῆσ' ἐφίλησε, δίδε δ' ἀγαθόν τε, κακόν τε,  
Ὀφθαλμῶν μὲν ἄμερσε, δίδε δ' ἠδεῖαν ἀοιδήν.

HOMER Odyss. Θ.

Vol. II.

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G O T H A

PRINTED FOR STEUDEL AND KEIL.

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✓  
E N G L I S H

L I B R A R Y

AUTHORS IN VERSE.

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Vol. II.

*Containing the second Part of Miltons  
Paradise lost and Paradise Regain'd.*

---

G O T H A

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*B O O K X.*

**M**ean while the hainous and despiteful act  
Of Satan, done in Paradise, and how  
He in the serpent had perverted Eve,  
Her husband she, to taste the fatal fruit,  
Was known in Heav'n: for what can 'scape  
the eye 5

Of God all seeing, or deceive his heart  
Omniscient? Who in all things wise and just,  
Hinder'd not Satan, to attempt the mind  
Of man, with strength entire, and free-will  
arm'd,

Complete to have discover'd and repuls'd 10  
Whatever whiles of foe or seeming friend:  
For still they knew, and ought t' have still re-  
member'd,

The high injunction, not to taste that fruit,  
Whoever tempted: which day not obeying,  
Incurr'd, what could they less? the pe-  
nalty, 15



And manifold in sin, deserv'd to fall.

Up into Heav'n from Paradise in haste  
Th' Angelic Guards ascended, mute and sad  
For man; for of his state by this they knew:  
Much wond'ring, how the subtle fiend had  
stol'n 20

Entrance unseen. Soon as th' unwelcome  
news

From earth arriv'd at Heaven gate, displeas'd  
All were who heard: dim sadness did not spare  
That time celestial vilages; yet mix'd  
With pity, violated not their blifs. 25

About the new-arriv'd, in multitudes  
Th' ethereal people ran, to hear and know  
How all befel: they towards the Throne su-  
preme

Accountable made haste to make appear  
With righteous plea their utmost vigilance; 30  
And easily approv'd: when the Most High  
Eternal Father, from his secret cloud  
Amidst, in thunder utter'd thus his voice.

Assembled Angels, and ye Pow'rs return'd  
From unsuccessful charge! be not dismay'd, 35  
Nor troubl'd at these tidings from the earth,  
Which your sincerest care could not prevent,  
Foretold so lately, what would come to pass,  
When first this tempter cross'd the gulf from  
Hell.

I told you then he should prevail, and speed 40



On his bad errand; Man should be seduc'd,  
And flatter'd out of all, believing lies  
Against his Maker: no decree of mine  
Concurring to necessitate his fall,  
Or touch with lightest moment of impulse 45  
His free will, to her own inclining left  
In even scale. But fall'n he is, and now  
What rests, but that the mortal Sentence pass  
On his transgression, death denounc'd that  
day;  
Which he presumes already vain and void, 50  
Because not inflicted, as he fear'd,  
By some immediate stroke: aut soon shall find  
Forbearance no acquittance e're day end.  
Justice shall not return, as bounty, scorn'd.  
But whom send I to judge them? whom, but  
thee 55  
Vicegerent Son? To thee I have transferr'd  
All judgment, whether in Heav'n, or Earth,  
or Hell,  
Easy it may be seen, that I intend  
Mercy colleague with justice sending thee,  
Man's friend, his mediator, his design'd 60  
Both ransom and redeemer voluntary;  
And destin'd man himself, to judge man fall'n.  
So spake the Father, and unfolding bright  
Tow'rd the right hand his Glory, on the Son  
Blaz'd forth unclouded Deity: He full 65  
Resplendent all his Father manifest



Express'd, and thus divinely answer'd mild.

Father Eternal! Thine is to decree;  
Mine both in Heav'n and Earth, to do thy will  
Supreme; that thou in me thy Son belov'd 70  
Mayst ever rest well pleas'd. I go to judge  
On earth these thy transgressors; but thou  
know'st,

Whoever judg'd, the worst on me must light,  
When time shall be; for so I undertook  
Before thee; and not repenting, this obtain 75  
Of right, that I may mitigate their doom  
On me deriv'd: yet I shall temper so  
Justice with Mercy, as may illustrate most  
Them fully satisfy'd, and thee appease.  
Attendance none shall need, nor train, where  
none 80  
Are to behold the judgment, but the judg'd,  
Those two: the third best absent is condemn'd;  
Convict by flight, and rebel to all law;  
Conviction to the serpent none belongs.

Thus saying, from his radiant seat he  
rose 85  
Of high collateral glory: Him Thrones, and  
Pow'rs,  
Princedom, and Dominations ministrant,  
Accompanied to Heaven-gate: from whence  
Eden, and all the coast in prospect lay.  
Down he descended straight: the speed of  
Gods 90



Time counts not, tho' with swiftest minutesft  
wing'd,

Now was the Sun in western cadence low  
From noon; and gentle airs, due at their  
hour,

To fan the earth now wak'd, and usher in  
The ev'ning cool; when he, from wrath more  
cool, 95

Came, the mild Judge, and Intercessor both,  
To sentence man: the voice of God they heard,  
Now walking in the garden, by soft winds  
Brought to their ears while day declin'd: they  
heard,

And from his presence hid themselves,  
among 100

The thickest trees, both man and wife: till  
God

Approaching, thus to Adam call'd aloud.

Where art thou Adam, wont with joy to  
meet

My coming seen far off? I miss thee here,  
Not pleas'd; thus entertain'd with solitude, 105  
Where obvious duty e're-while appear'd un-  
sought:

Or come I less conspicuous? Or what change  
Absents thee? Or what change detains? Come  
forth:

He came, and with him Eve, more loth,  
tho' first



To offend; discountenanc'd both, and discom-  
pos'd: 110

Love was not in their looks, either to God  
Or to each other; but apparent guilt,  
And shame, and perturbation, and despair,  
Anger, and obstinacy, and hate, and guile:  
Whence Adam, fault'ring long, thus answer'd  
brief: 115

I heard thee in the garden, and of thy voice  
Afraid, being naked, hid myself. — To whom  
The gracious Judge without revile reply'd.

My voice thou oft hast heard, and hast not  
fear'd,

But still rejoic'd: how is it now become 120  
So dreadful to thee? That thou art naked,  
who

Had told thee? Hast thou eaten of the tree,  
Whereof I gave thee charge, thou should not  
eat?

To whom thus Adam sore beset reply'd,  
O Heav'n! in evil strait this day I stand 125  
Before my Judge, either to undergo  
Myself the total crime, or to accuse  
My other self, the partner of my life:  
Whose failing, while her faith to me remains,  
I should conceal, and not expose to blame 130  
By my complaint. But strict necessity  
Subdues me, and calamitous constraint!  
Left on my head both sin and punishment,



However insupportable, be all  
Devolv'd. Though should I hold my peace,  
yet thou 135

Wouldst easily detect what I conceal —  
This Woman, whom thou mad'st to be my  
help,

And gav'st me as thy perfect gift, so good,  
So fit, so acceptable, so divine,  
That from her hand I could suspect no ill; 140  
And what she did, whatever in itself,  
Her doing seem'd to justify the deed;  
She gave me of the tree, — and I did eat.

To whom the Sov'reign Presence thus re-  
ply'd.

Was she thy God, that her thou didst obey 145  
Before his voice? Or was she made thy guide,  
Superior, or but equal; that to her  
Thou didst resign thy manhood, and the place  
Wherein God set thee above her, made of  
thee;

And for thee; whose perfection far excell'd 150  
Her in all real dignity? Adorn'd  
She whas indeed and lovely, to attract  
Thy love; not thy subjection: and her gifts  
Were such, as under government well-  
seem'd;

Unseemly to bear rule, which was thy part, 155  
And person, hadst thou known thyself aright.

So having said, he thus to Eve in few:



Say, woman, what is this, which thou hast  
done?

To whom sad Eve, with shame nigh over-  
whelm'd,

Confessing soon; yet not before her Judge 160  
Bold, or loquacious, thus abash'd reply'd. —  
The serpent me beguil'd, and I did eat!

Which when the Lord God heard, without  
delay

To judgment He proceeded on th' accus'd  
Serpent though brute unable to transfer 165  
The guilt on him, who made him instrument  
Of mischief, and polluted from the end  
Of his creation; justly then accurs'd,  
As vitiated in nature. More to know  
Concern'd not man, since he no further  
knew, 170

Nor alter'd his offence: yet God at last  
To Satan first in sin his doom apply'd,  
Though in mysterious terms, judg'd as then  
best:

And on the Serpent thus his curse let fall.

Because thou hast done this, thou art ac-  
curst 175

Above all cattle, each beast of the field;  
Upon thy belly groveling thou shalt go;  
And dust shalt eat, all the days of thy life:  
Between thee and thee woman I will put  
Enmity and between thine and her seed: 180



Her seed shall bruise thy head, thou bruise  
his heel.

So spake this oracle, then verify'd,  
When Jesus son of Mary, second Eve,  
Saw Satan fall, like lightning, down from  
Heav'n,

Prince of the air: then rising from his grave 185  
Spoil'd Principalities and Pow'rs, triumph'd  
In open shew; and, with ascension bright,  
Captivity led captive through the air,  
The realm itself of Satan, long usurp'd;  
Whom He, shall tread at last under our feet; 190  
Ev'n He who now foretold his fatal bruise;  
And to the woman thus his sentence turn'd.

Thy sorrow I will greatly multiply  
By thy conception; children thou shalt bring  
In sorrow forth; and to thy husband's will 195  
Thine shall submit: he over thee shall rule.

On Adam last thus judgment he pronounc'd:  
Because thou hast hearken'd to the voice of  
thy wife,

And eaten of the tree, concerning which  
I charg'd thee, saying, thou shalt not eat the-  
reof: 200

Curs'd is the ground for thy sake: thou in  
sorrow

Shalt eat thereof all the days of thy life:

Thorns also and thistles it shall bring thee forth  
Unbid; and thou shalt eat th' herb of the field,



In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, 205  
Till thou return unto the ground; for thou  
Out of the ground wast taken, know thy birth,  
For dust thou art, and shalt to dust return.

So judg'd he Man, both Judge and Saviour  
sent;

And th' instant stroke of Death, denounc'd that  
day, 210

Remov'd far off: then, pitying how they stood  
Before him naked to the air, that now  
Must suffer change, disdain'd not to begin  
Thenceforth the form of servant to assume:

As when he wash'd his servants feet; so  
now 215

As father of his family he clad  
Their nakedness with skins of beasts; or slain,  
Or, as the snake, with youthful coat repaid:  
And thought not much to clothe his enemies.  
Nor he their outward only, with the skins 220  
Of beasts, but inward nakedness, much more  
Opprobrious! with his robe of righteousness  
Arraying cover'd from his Father's sight.

To him with swift ascent he up return'd,  
Into his blisful bosom reassum'd 225

In glory as of old; to him appeas'd  
All, tho' allknowing, what had past with man  
Recounted, mixing intercession sweet.

Mean while, ere thus was sinn'd and judg'd  
on earth,



Within the gates of Hell sat Sin and Death, 230  
In counterview within the gates, that now  
Stood open wide, belching outrageous flame  
Far into Chaos, since the Fiend past through,  
Sin opening: who thus now to Death began.

O son! why sit we here each other view-  
ing 235

Idly, while Satan our great author thrives  
In other worlds, and happier seat provides  
For us his offspring dear? It cannot be  
But that success attends him: if mishap,  
Ere this he had return'd, with fury driven 240  
By his avengers, since no place like this  
Can fit his punishment, or their revenge.

Methinks I feel new strength within me rise,  
Wings growing, and dominion giv'n me large  
Beyond this deep: whatever draws me on, 245  
Or sympathy, or some connatural force,

Pow'rful at greatest distance to unite  
With secret amity things of like kind  
By secretest conveyance. Thou, my shade  
Inseparable, must with me along: 250

For Death from Sin no pow'r can separate.

But lest the difficulty of passing back  
Stay his return perhaps over this gulf  
Impassable, impervious; let us try

Advent'rous work, yet to thy pow'r and  
mine 255

Not unagreeable, to found a path



Over this main from Hell to that new world,  
Where Satan now prevails, a monument  
Of merit high to all th' infernal host;  
Easing their passage hence, for intercourse, 260  
Or transmigration, as their lot shall lead.  
Nor can I miss the way, so strongly drawn  
By this new felt attraction and instinct.

Whom thus the meager Shadow answer'd  
soon.

Go whither fate and inclination strong 265  
Leads thee; I shall not lag behind, nor err  
The way, thou leading, such a scent I draw  
Of carnage, prey innumerable, and taste  
The favour of Death from all things there that  
live.

Nor shall I to the work thou enterprisest 270  
Be wanting, but afford thee equal aid.

So saying, with delight he snuff'd the smell  
Of mortal change on earth. As when a flock  
Of ravenous fowl, though many a league re-  
mote,

Against the day of battel, to a field, 275  
Where armies lie incamp'd, come flying, lur'd  
With scent of living carcases, design'd  
For death the following day, in bloody fight:  
So scented the grim Feature, and upturn'd  
His nostrils wide into the murky air, 280  
Sagacious of his quarry from so far.

Then both from out Hell-gates; into the waste



Wide anarchy of Chaos, damp and dark,  
Flew diverse, and with pow'r: their pow'r  
was great.

Hovering upon the waters, what they met 285  
Solid or slimy, as in raging sea

Tost up and down, together crowded drove  
From each side shoaling towards the mouth of  
Hell:

As when two polar winds, blowing adverse  
Upon the Cronian sea, together drive 290

Mountains of ice, that stop th' imagin'd way  
Beyond Petora eastward, to the rich

Cathaian coast. The aggregated soil  
Death with his mace petrific, cold and dry,

As with a trident smote; and fix'd as firm 295  
As Delos floating once: the rest his look

Bound with Gorgonian rigor not to move:  
And with Asphaltic slime, broad as the gate,

Deep to the roots of Hell the gather'd beach  
They fasten'd; and the mole immense wrought

on 300  
Over the foaming deep high arch'd: a bridge,  
Of length prodigious, joining to the wall

Immoveable of this now fenceless world,  
Forfeit to Death. From hence a passage

broad,

Smooth, easy, inoffensive, down to Hell. 305  
So, if great things to small may be compar'd,

Xerxes, the Liberty of Grece to yoke.



From Susa, his Memnonian palace high,  
Came to the sea; and over Hellespont  
Bridging his way, Europe with Asia join'd; 310  
And scourg'd with many a stroke th' indignant  
waves.  
Now had they brought the work, by won-  
drous art  
Pontifical, a ridge of pendent rock  
Over the vex'd Abyss, following the track  
Of Satan, to the self-same place, where he 315  
First lighted from his wing, and landed safe  
From out of Chaos to the outside bare  
Of this round world: with pins of adamant  
And chains they made all fast; too fast they  
made,  
And durable: And now in little space 320  
The confines met of empyréan Heav'n  
And of this world, and on the left hand hell.  
With long reach interpos'd: three sev'ral ways  
In sight, to each of these three places led.  
And now their way to earth they had descry'd 325  
To Paradise first tending; when, behold!  
Satan, in likeness of an Angel bright,  
Betwixt the Centaur and the Scorpion steering  
His zenith, while the Sun in Aries rose:  
Disguis'd he came; but those his children  
dear 330  
Their parent soon discern'd, though in disguise.  
He, after Eve seduc'd, unminded slunk,



Into the wood fast by; and changing shape  
T' observe the sequel, saw his guileful act  
By Eve, though all unweeting, seconded 335  
Upon her husband; saw their shame, that  
fought

Vain covertures: but when he saw descend  
The Son of God to judge them, terrify'd  
He fled; not hoping to escape, but shunn'd  
The present; fearing guilty, what his wrath 340  
Might suddenly inflict: that past, return'd  
By night, and listening, where the hapless pair  
Sat in their sad discourse, and various plaint,  
Thence gather'd his own doom: which un-  
derstood

Not instant, but of future time, with joy 345  
And tidings fraught, to Hell he now return'd:  
And at the brink of Chaos, near the foot  
Of this new wondrous pontifice, unhop'd  
Met, who to meet him came, his offspring  
dear.

Great joy was at their meeting, and at sight 350  
Of that stupendous bridge his joy increas'd.  
Long he admiring stood, till Sin, his fair  
Inchanting daughter, thus the silence broke.

O parent! these are thy magnific deeds,  
Thy trophies, which thou view'st as not thine  
own; 355

Thou art their author, and prime architect.  
For I no sooner in my heart divin'd,



My heart, which by a secret harmony  
Still moves with thine, join'd in connexion  
sweet,  
That thou on earth hadst prosper'd, which  
thy looks 360  
Now also evidence, but straight I felt,  
Though distant from thee worlds between, yet  
felt,  
That I must after thee with this thy son:  
Such fatal consequence unites us three!  
Hell could no longer hold us in her  
bounds; 365  
Nor this unvoyageable gulf obscure,  
Detain from following thy illustrious track.  
Thou hast atchiev'd our liberty, confin'd  
Within Hell gates till now: Thou us impower'd  
To fortify thus far, and ever-lay 370  
With this portentous bridge the dark Abyss.  
Thine now is all this world; thy virtue hath  
won,  
What thy hands builded not: thy wisdom gain'd  
With odds, what war hath lost: and fully  
aveng'd  
Our foil in Heav'n: here thou shalt Monarch  
reign, 375  
There didst not: there let him still victor  
sway,  
As battel hath adjudg'd, from this new world  
Retiring, by his own doom alienated:  
And







Dominion exercise, and in the air, 400  
Chiefly on Man, sole Lord of all declar'd :  
Him first make sure your thrall, and lastly kill.  
My substitutes I send you, and create  
Plenipotent on earth, of matchless might  
Issuing from me ; on your joint vigor now 405  
My hold of this new kingdom all depends ;  
Through sin to death expos'd by my exploit.  
If your joint pow'r prevail, th' affairs of hell  
No detriment need fear ; go and be strong.

So saying he dismiss'd them ; they with  
speed 410

Their course through thickest constellations  
held,

Spreading their bane ; the blasted stars look'd  
wan,

And Planets , planet-struck, real Eclipse  
Then suffer'd. Th' other way, Satan went  
down

The cauley to Hell gate : on either side, 415  
Disparted Chaos over built exclaim'd,  
And with rebounding surge the bars assail'd,  
That scorn'd his indignation. Through the  
gate,

Wide open and unguarded, Satan pass'd,  
And all about found desolate : for those 420  
Appointed to sit there, had left their charge,  
Flown to the upper world : the rest were all  
Far to th' inland retir'd, about the walls



Of Pandaemonium, city and proud seat  
Of Lucifer, so by allusion call'd, 425  
Of that bright star to Satan paragon'd.  
There kept their watch the legions, while the  
Grand

In council sat, solicitous what chance  
Might intercept their Emperor sent: so he  
Departing gave command, and they ob-  
serv'd, 430

As when the Tartar from his Russian foe  
By Astracan over the snowy plains,  
Retires: or Bactrian Sophy from the horns  
Of Turkish crescent, leaves all waste beyond  
The realm of Aladule, in his retreat 435  
To Taurus, or Calbeen: so these, the late  
Heav'n-banish'd host, left desert utmost Hell  
Many a dark league, reduc'd in careful watch  
Round their Metropolis; and now expecting  
Each hour their great adventurer from the  
search 440

Of foreign worlds: he through the midst un-  
mark'd,

In shew plebeian Angel militant  
Of lowest order, past; and from the door  
Of that Plutonian hall, invisible  
Ascended his high throne; which under  
state 445

Of richest texture spread, at th' upper end  
Was plac'd in regal lustre. Down a while



He sat, and round about him saw unseen.  
At last as from a cloud, his fulgent head  
And shape star-bright appear'd, or brighter,  
clad 450

With what permissive glory since his fall  
Was left him, or false glitter: all amaz'd  
At that so sudden blaze, the Stygian throng  
Bent their aspect, and whom they wish'd be-  
held,

Their mighty Chief return'd: loud was th' ac-  
clame! 455

Forth rush'd in haste the great consulting  
Peers,

Rais'd from their dark Divan, and with like  
joy

Congratulant approach'd him, who with hand  
Silence, and with these words attention won.

Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Vir-  
tues, Pow'rs! 460

For in possession such, not only of right,  
I call you and declare you now; return'd  
Successful beyond hope, to lead you forth  
'Triumphant out of this infernal pit

Abominable, accurs'd, the house of woe, 465

And dungeon of our tyrant! now possess,

As Lords, a spacious world, t' our native  
Heav'n

Little inferior, by my adventure hard

With peril great achiev'd. Long were to tell



What I have done, what suffer'd, with what  
pain 470

Voyag'd th' unreal, vast, unbounded deep  
Of horrible confusion! over which  
By Sin and Death a broad way now is pav'd  
To expedite your glorious march: but I  
Toil'd out my uncouth passage, forc'd to  
ride 475

Th' untractable abyfs, plung'd in he womb  
Of unoriginal Night and Chaos wild:  
That jealous of their secrets fiercely oppos'd  
My journey strange, with clamorous uproar  
Protesting fate supreme: thence, how I  
found 480

The new created world, which fame in  
Heav'n

Long had foretold, a fabric wonderful  
Of absolute perfection: therein Man,  
Plac'd in a Paradise, by our exile  
Made happy: him by fraud I have seduc'd 485  
From his Creator; and the more t' increase  
Your wonder, with an apple: he thereat  
Offended, worth your laughter, hath giv'n up  
Both his beloved Man and all his world,  
To Sin and Death a prey, and so to us, 490  
Without our hazard, labor, or alarm:  
To range in, and to dwell, and over man  
To rule, as over all he should have rul'd.  
True is, me also he hath judg'd, or rather



Me not, but the brute serpent, in whose  
shape 495

Man I deceiv'd, that which to me belongs,  
Is enmity, which he will put between  
Me and mankind; I am to cruise his heel;  
His seed, when is not set, shall bruise my  
head.

A world who would not purchase with a  
bruise, 500  
Or much more grievous pain? Ye have th'  
account

Of my performance: What remains, ye Gods,  
But up and enter now into full blifs? —

So having said, a while he stood, expecting  
Their universal shout and high applause, 505  
To fill his ear: when contrary, he hears  
On all sides, from innumerable tongues,  
A dismal universal hiss, the sound  
Of public scorn: he wonder'd, but not long  
Had leisure, wond'ring at himself now  
more: 510

His visage drawn he felt to sharp and spare;  
His arms clung to his ribs; his legs entwining  
Bach other, till supplanted down he fell  
A monstrous serpent on his belly prone,  
Reluctant; but in vain, a greater pow'r 515  
Now rul'd him, punish'd in the shape he  
finn'd

According to his doom. He would have spoke,



But hiss for his return'd with forked tongue,  
To forked tongue; for now were all trans-  
form'd

Alike, to serpents all as accessories 520

To his bold riot: dreadful was the din  
Of hissing through the hall, thick swarming  
now

With complicated monsters head and tail,  
Scorpion, and Asp, and Amphibaena dire,  
Ceraustes horn'd, Hydrus, and Elops drear, 525  
And Diplas, not so thick swarm'd once the  
soil

Bedropt with blood of Gorgon; or the isle  
Ophiusa, but still greatest he the midst,  
Cow Dragon grown, larger than whom the  
sun

Ingender'd in the Pythian vale on slime. 530

Huge Python! and his pow'r no less he seem'd  
Above the rest still to retain: they all

Him follow'd, issuing forth to th' open field,  
Where all yet left of that revolted rout,

Heav'n-fall'n, in station stood or just array, 535

Sublime with expectation, when to see

In triumph issuing forth their glorious chief:

They saw, but other sight instead! a crowd

Of ugly serpents: horror on them fell,

And horrid sympathy: for what they saw, 540

They felt themselves now changing: down  
their arms,



Down fell both spear and shield, down they  
as fast,

And the dire hiss renew'd, and the dire  
form

Catch'd by contagion, like in punishment,  
As in their crime. Thus was th' applause  
they meant, 545

Turn'd to exploding hiss, triumph to shame  
Cast on themselves from their own mouths.

There stood  
A grove hard by, sprung up with this their  
change,

His will who reigns above, to aggravate  
Their penance, laden with fair fruit, like  
that 550

Which grew in Paradise, the bait of Eve  
Us'd by the tempter: on that prospect strange  
Their earnest eyes they fix'd; imagining  
For one forbidden tree, a multitude  
Now ris'n, to work them further woe or  
shame: 555

Yet parch'd with scalding thirst and hunger  
fierce,

Though to delude them sent, could not ab-  
stain,

But on they roll'd in heaps, and up the trees  
Climbing, sat thicker than the snaky locks  
That curl'd Megaera; greedily they pluck'd 560  
The fruitage fair to sight, like that which grew



Near that bituminous lake where Sodom  
flam'd;

This, more delusive, not the touch, but taste  
Deceiv'd they fondly thinking to allay

Their appetite with gust, instead of fruit 565

Chew'd bitter ashes, which th' offended taste

With spattering noise rejected: oft they assay'd,

Hunger and thirst constraining; drug'd as oft

With hatefullest disrelish, writh'd their jaws

With soot and cinders fill'd: so oft they

tell 570

Into the same illusion; not as man,

Whom they triumph'd once laps'd. Thus were

they plagu'd

And worn with famine, long and ceaseless

hifs,

Till their lost shape, permitted, they resum'd:

Yearly injoin'd, some say, to undergo 575

This annual humbling certain number'd days,

To dash their pride, and joy for man seduc'd.

However some tradition they dispers'd

Among the Heathen of their purchase got.

And fabled, how the serpent, whom they

call'd 580

Ophion with Eurynome, the wide

Encroaching Eve perhaps, had first de rule

Of high Olympus; thence by Saturn driv'n,

And Ops, e're yet Dictaeon Jove was born.

Mean while in Paradise the hellish pair 585



Too soon arriv'd, Sin, there in pow'r before,  
Once actual; now in body, and to dwell  
Habitual habitant; behind her Death,  
Close following pace for pace, not mounted yet,  
On his pale horse: to whom Sin thus began. 590

Second of Satan sprung, all conquering  
Death,

What think'st thou of our empire now? Tho'  
earn'd

With travel difficult, not better far  
Than still at Hell's dark threshold t' have sat  
watch,

Unnam'd, undreaded, and thyself half  
starv'd? 595

Whom thus the sin-born monster answer'd  
soon:

To me, who with eternal famine pine,  
Alike, is Hell, or Paradise, or Heav'n;  
There best, where most with ravin I may  
meet:

Which here, tho' plenteous, all too little  
seems, 600  
To stuff this maw, this vast unhide-bound  
corps.

To whom th' incestuous mother thus reply'd:  
Thou therefore on these herbs, and fruits,  
and flowers  
Feed first on each beast next, and fish, and  
fowl;



No homely morsels! and whatever thing 605  
The scythe of Time mowes down, devour un-  
spar'd:

Till I in man residing, through the race,  
His thoughts, his looks, words, actions all  
infect;

And season him thy last and sweetest prey.

This said, they both betook them several  
ways, 610

Both to destroy, or unimmortal make  
All kinds; and for destruction to mature  
Sooner or later: which th' Almighty seeing,  
From his transcendent seat the Saints among,  
To those bright Orders utter'd thus his  
voice. 615

See, with what heat these dogs of hell  
advance

To waste and havock yonder world, which I  
So fair and good created; and had still  
Kept in that state, had not the folly of man  
Let in these wasteful Furies; who impute 620  
Folly to me: so doth the prince of Hell  
And his adherents, that with so much ease  
I suffer them to enter and possess  
A place so heav'nly, and conniving seem  
To gratify my scornful enemies, 625  
That laugh, as if, transported with some fit,  
Of passion, I to them had quitted all,  
At random yielded up to their misrule:



And know not, that I call'd and drew them  
thither,

My hell-hounds, to lick up the draff and  
filth, 630

Which man's polluting sin with taint hath  
shed

On what was pure, till cramm'd and gorg'd,  
nigh burst,

With suck'd and glutted offal, at one fling

Of thy victorious arm, well-pleasing Son,

Both Sin, and Death, and yawning Grave at  
last 635

Throug Chaos hurl'd, obstruct the mouth of  
Hell

For ever, and seal up his ravenous jaws,

Then hea'n and earth renew'd, shall be made  
pure

To sanctity, that shall receive no stain :

Till then the curse pronounc'd on both pre-  
cedes. 640

He ended, and the heav'nly audience loud

Sung Hallelujah, as the sound of seas,

Through multitude that sung' „Just are thy  
ways,

„Righteous are thy decrees on all thy works;

„Who can extenuate Thee? next, to the  
Son, 645

„Destind restorer of mankind, by whom

„New heav'n and earth shall to the ages rise,



„Or down from Heav'n descend.“ Such was  
their song,

While the Creator calling forth by name  
His mighty Angels, gave them several  
charge, 650

As sorted best with present things. The Sun  
Had first his precept so to move, so shine,  
As might affect the earth with cold, and heat,  
Scarce tolerable; and from the north to call  
Decrepit Winter; from the south to bring, 655  
Solstitial summer's heat. To the blanc moon  
Her office they prescrib'd; to th' other five  
Their planetary motions and aspects

In Sextile, Square, and Trine, and Opposite;  
Of noxious efficacy; and when to join 660

In synod unbenign: and taught the fix'd  
Their influence malignant when to show'r,  
Which of them rising with the Sun, or fal-  
ling,

Should prove tempestuous. To the winds  
they set

Their corners; when with bluster to con-  
found 665

Sea, air, and shore: the thunder when to  
roll

With terror through the dark aerial hall.

Some say, he bid his Angels turn ascanse

The Poles of earth twice ten degrees and  
more



From the Sun's axle; they with labor  
push'd 670

Oblique the centric globe: some say, the Sun  
Was bid turn from th' equinoctial road  
Like distant breadth to Taurus with to sev'n  
Atlantic sisters; and the Spartan Twins  
Up to the Tropic Crab; thence down  
amain 675

By Leo and the Virgin and the Scales,  
As deep as Capricorn, to bring in change  
Of seasons to each clime: else had the spring  
Perpetual smil'd on earth with vernant  
flowers,

Equal in days and nights, except to those 680  
Beyond the Polar circles: to them day  
Had unbenighted shone, while the low Sun  
To recompense his distance, in their sight  
Had rounded still th' horizon, and not known  
Or east or west; which had forbid the snow 685  
From cold Estotiland; and south as far  
Beneath Magellan. At that tasted fruit  
The sun, as from Thyestean banquet, turn'd  
His course intended; else how had the world  
Inhabited, though sinless, more than now 690  
Avoided pinching cold and scorching heat?  
These changes in the Heavn's, though slow,  
produc'd

Like change on sea and land; sidereal blast,  
Vapor, and mist, and exhalation hot;



Corrupt and pestilent! Now from the  
North 695

Of Norumbega, and the Samoed shore,  
Bursting their brazen dungeon, arm'd with ice  
And snow and hail and stormy gust and flaw,  
Boreas and Caecias and Argestes loud  
And Thrascias rend the woods and seas up-  
turn: 700

With adverse blast upturns them from the  
south

Notus and Afer black with thundrous clouds  
From Sierra Liona: thwart of these as fierce  
Forth rush the Levant and the Ponent winds  
Eurus and Zephyr; with their lateral noise, 705  
Sirocco, and Libeccio. Thus began  
Outrage from lifeless things: but Discord first,  
Daughter of Sin, among th' irrational  
Death introduc'd through fierce antipathy:  
Beast now with beast 'gan war, and fowl with  
fowl, 710

And fish with fish: to graze the herb all  
leaving,

Devour'd each other; nor stood much in awe  
Of man, but fled him, or with count'nance  
grim

Glar'd on him passing. These were from  
without

The growing miseries, which Adam saw 715  
Already in part, though hid in gloomiest shade,



To sorrow abandon'd, but worse felt within,  
And in a troubled sea of passion tost,  
Thus to disburden sought with sad complaint.

O miserable of happy! is this the end 720  
Of this new glorious world, and me so late  
The glory of that glory, who now become  
Accurs'd of blessed? Hide me from the face  
Of God, whom to behold was then my height  
Of happiness! yet well, if here would end 725  
The misery; I deserv'd it, and would bear  
My own deservings; but this will not serve!  
All that I eat, or drink, or shall beget,  
Is propagated curse. O voice once heard  
Delightfully, *Increase and multiply*; 730  
Now death to hear! For what can I increase,  
Or multiply, but curses on my head?  
Who of all ages to succeed, but feeling  
The evil on him brought by me, will curse  
My head? Ill fare our ancestor impure! 735  
For this we may thank Adam! but his thanks  
Shall be the execration: so besides  
Mine own that bide upon me, all from me  
Shall with a fierce reflux on me redound:  
On me as on their natural centre light 740  
Heavy, though in their place. O fleeting joys  
Of Paradise, dear bought with lasting woes!  
Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay,  
To mold me man? Did I solicit thee  
From darkness to promote me, or here place 745  
In



In this delicious garden? As my will  
Concurr'd not to my being, it were but right  
And equal to reduce me to my dust,  
Desirous to resign and render back  
All I receiv'd; unable to perform 750  
Thy terms too hard, by which I was to hold  
The good I sought not. To the loss of that,  
Sufficient penalty, why hast thou added  
The sense of endless woes? Inexplicable  
Thy justice seems. — Yet, to say truth, too  
late 755  
I thus contest: then should have been refus'd  
Those terms whatever, when they were pro-  
pos'd:  
Thou didst accept them; wilt thou enjoy the  
good,  
Then cavil the conditions? And though God  
Made thee without thy leave; what if thy  
son 760  
Prove disobedient, and reprov'd, retort,  
Wherefore didst thou beget me? I sought  
it not!  
Wouldst thou admit for his contempt of thee  
That proud excuse? Yet him, not thy election,  
But natural necessity begot. 765  
God made thee of choice his own, and of his  
own  
To serve him; thy reward was of his grace,  
Thy punishment then justly is at his will.



Be it so! for I submit: his doom is fair,  
That dust I am, and shall to dust return: 770  
O welcome hour whenever! Why delays  
His hand to execute, what his decree  
Fix'd on this day? Why do I overlive?  
Why am I mock'd with death, and lengthen'd

out  
To deathless pain? How gladly would I  
meet 775

Mortality my sentence, and be earth  
Insensible! How glad would lay me down,  
As in mother's lap! There I should rest,  
And sleep secure: His dreadful voice no more  
Would thunder in my ears: no fear of  
worse 780

To me and to my offspring would torment me  
With cruel expectation. — Yet one doubt  
Persues me still, lest all I cannot die;  
Lest that pure breath of life, the spirit of man  
Which God inspir'd, cannot together perish 785  
With this corporeal clod: then, in the grave,  
Or in some other dismal place, who knows  
But I shall die a living death? O thought  
Horrid, if true! Yet why? It was but breath  
Of life that sinn'd: what dies, but what had  
life 790

And sin? The body properly hath neither.  
All of me then shall die; let this appease  
The doubt, since human reach no further knows.



For though the Lord of all be infinite,  
Is his wrath also? Be it! Man is not so, 795  
But mortal doom'd. How can he exercise  
Wrath without end on man whom death must  
end?

Can he make deathless death? That were to  
make

Strange contradiction, which to God himself  
Impossible is held; as argument 800

Of weakness, not of pow'r. Will he draw out,  
For anger's sake, finite to infinite,  
In punish'd man, to satisfy his rigor,  
Satisfi'd never? That where to extend

His sentence beyond dust and nature's law: 805

By which all causes else according still

To the receptation of their matter act,

Not to th' extent of their own sphere. But say,

That Death be not one stroke, as I suppos'd,

Bereaving sense: but endless misery 810

From this day onward: which I feel begun

Both in me. and without me, and so last

To perpetuity. — Ay me! That fear

Comes thund'ring back with dreadful revo-  
lution

On my defenseless head: both Death and I 815

Am found eternal, and incorporate both,

Nor I on my part single, in me all

Posterity stands curs'd! Fair patrimony

That I must leave ye, sons; O were I able



To waste it all myself, and leave ye none! 826

So disinherited, how would you bless

Me now your curse! Ah, why should all  
mankind

For one man's fault thus guiltless be con-  
demn'd.

If guiltless? But from me what can proceed,

But all corrupt both mind and will de-  
prav'd. 825

No to do only, but to will the same

With me? How can they then acquitted stand

In sight of God? Him after all disputes

Forc'd I absolve: all my evasions vain

And reasonings though thro' mazes, lead me  
still 830

But to my own conviction: first and last

On me, me only, as the source and spring

Of all corruption, all the blame lights due:

So might the wrath. Fond wish! couldst thou  
support

That burden heavier; than the earth tō  
bear; 835

Than all the world much heavier; though  
divided

With that bad woman? Thus what thou de-  
sir'st

And what thou fear'st, alike destroys all hope

Of refuge; and concludes thee miserable,

Beyond all past example, and future: 840



To Satan only like both crime and doom.  
O Conscience! into what abyss of fears  
And horrors hast thou driv'n me? Out of which  
I find no way, from deep to deeper plung'd!

Thus Adam to himself lamented loud 845  
Through the still night, not now, as ere man  
fell,

Wholesome and cool, and mild; but with  
black air

Accompanied: with damps and dreadful  
gloom;

Which, to his evil conscience represented  
All things with double terror. On the  
ground 850

Outstretch'd he lay, on the cold ground, and  
oft

Curs'd his creation; Death as oft accus'd  
Of tardy execution, since denounc'd  
The day of his offence. Why comes not Death,  
Said he, with one thrice acceptable stroke 855  
To end me? shall truth fail to keep her word,  
Justice divine not hasten to be just?

But Death comes not at call, justice divine  
Mends not her slowest pace for prayers or  
cries.

O woods, o fountains, \*) hillocks, dales, and  
bow'rs! 860

\*) Perhaps it shou'd be, Hills, Rocks,



With other echo late I thought your shades  
To answer, and resound far other song! —  
Whom thus afflicted when sad Eve beheld,  
Desolate where she sat, approaching nigh,  
Soft words to his fierce passion she assay'd: 865  
But her with stern regard he thus repell'd.

Out of my sight, thou serpent! — That  
name best

Befits thee with him leagu'd; thyself as false  
And hateful: nothing wants, but that thy  
shape,

Like his, and color serpentine, may show 870  
Thy inward fraud; to warn all creatures from  
thee

Henceforth; lest that too heav'nly form, pre-  
tended

To hellish falsehood snare them! But for thee  
I had persisted happy; had not thy pride  
And wand'ring vanity, when least was safe, 875  
Rejected my forewarning, and disdain'd  
Not to be trusted; longing to be seen,  
Though by the Devil himself; him overwee-  
ning

To over reach: but with the serpent meeting  
Fool'd and beguil'd, by him thou, I by thee 880  
To trust thee from my side; imagin'd wise,  
Constant, mature, proof against all assaults,  
And understood not all was but a show  
Rather than solid virtue; all but a rib



Crooked by nature, bent, as now appears, 885  
More to the part sinister, from me drawn;  
Well if thrown out, as supernumerary  
To my just number found. O! why did  
God,

Creator wise, that peopled highest Heav'n  
With spirits masculine, create at last 890  
This novelty on earth, this fair defect  
Of nature, and not fill the world at once  
With men as Angels without feminine,  
Or find some other way to generate  
Mankind? This mischief had not then be-  
fall'n, 895

And more that shall befall: innumerable  
Disturbances on earth through female snares,  
And strait conjunction with this sex: for either  
He never shall find out fit mete; but such  
As some misfortune brings him, or mi-  
stake; 900

Or whom he wishes most, shall seldom gain  
Through her perverseness; but shall see her  
gain'd

By a far worse: or if she love, withheld  
By parents; or his happiest choice too late  
Shall meet, already link'd and wedlok-  
bound 905

To a fell adversary, his hate, or shame:  
Which infinite calamity shall cause  
To human life, and household peace confound.



He added not, and from her turn'd; But  
Eve  
Not so repuls'd, with tears that ceas'd not  
flowing, 910

And tresses all disorder'd, at his feed  
Fell humble; and embracing them besought  
His peace, and thus proceeded in her plaint.

Forlake me not thus, Adam! Witness Heav'n  
What love sincere, and reverence in my  
heart 915

I bear thee, and unweeting have offended,  
Unhappily deceiv'd! thy suppliant

I beg, and clasp thy knees; bereave me not,  
Whereon I live! thy gentle looks, thy aid,  
Thy counsel in this uttermost distrefs, 920

My only strength and stay! Forlorn of thee,  
Whither shall I betake me, where subsist?

While yet we live, scarce one short hour  
perhaps,

Between us two let there be peace, both join-  
ing,

As join'd in injuries, one enmity 925

Against a foe by doom express assign'd us,

That cruel serpent! On me exercise not

Thy hatred for this misery befall'n:

On me already lost! Me, than thyself

More miserable! both have sinn'd; but thou 930

Against God only; I against God, and thee:

And to the place of judgment will return.



There with my cries importune Heav'n, that  
all  
The sentence, from thy head remov'd, may  
light

On me, sole cause to thee of all this woe, 935  
Me, me only, just object of his ire!

She ended weeping; and her lowly plight  
Immoveable till peace obtain'd from fault  
Acknowledg'd, and deplor'd, in Adam wrought  
Commiseration: soon his heart relented 940  
Towards her, his life so late and sole delight,  
Now at his feet submissive in distress!  
Creature so fair his reconciliation seeking,  
His counsel, whom she had displeas'd, his aid!  
As one disarm'd, his anger all he lost; 945  
And thus with peaceful words uprais'd her  
soon.

Unwary, and too desirous as before,  
So now of what thou know'st not, who de-  
sir'st

The punishment all on thyself! Alas!  
Bear thine own first; ill able to sustain 950  
His full wrath, whose thou feel'st as yet least  
part,

And my displeasure bear'st so ill. If pray'rs  
Could alter high decrees, I to that place  
Would speed before thee, and be louder heard,  
That on my head all might be visited, 955  
Thy frailty and infirmer sex forgiv'n,



To me committed and by me expos'd.  
But rise; let us no more contend, nor blame  
Each other blam'd enough elsewhere! But  
strive

In offices of love, how we may lighten 960  
Each other's burden, in our share of woe:  
Since this day's death denounc'd, if ought I  
see,

Will prove no sudden but a slow-pac'd evil;  
A long day's dying to augment our pain,  
And to our seed, O hapless seed! deriv'd. 965  
To whom thus Eve, recov'ring heart, re-  
ply'd.

Adam by sad experiment, I know  
How little weight my words with thee can  
find,  
Found so erroneous; thence by just event  
Found so unfortunate; nevertheless, 970  
Restor'd by thee, vile as I am, to place  
Of new acceptance, hopeful to regain  
Thy love, the sole contentment of my  
heart

Living or dying, from thee I will not hide,  
What thoughts in my unquiet breast are  
ris'n: 975

Tending to some relief of our extremes,  
Or end, though sharp and sad, yet tolerable  
As in our evils, and of easier choice.  
If care of our descent perplex us most,



Which must be born to certain woe, de-  
vour'd 980

By Death at last; and miserable it is  
To be to others cause of misery,  
Our own begotten, and of our loins to bring  
Into this cursed world a woeful race;  
That after wretched life must be at last 985  
Food for so foul a monster: in thy pow'r  
It lies, yet e're conception to prevent  
The race unblest, to being yet unbegot.

Childless thou art, childless remain: so Death  
Shall be deceiv'd his glut; and with us  
two 990

Be forc'd to satisfy his rav'nous maw.  
But if thou judge it hard and difficult,  
Conversing, looking, loving, to abstain  
From love's due rites, nuptial embraces sweet,  
And with desire to languish without hope, 995  
Before the present object languishing  
With like desire, which would be misery,  
And torment less than none of what we dread;  
Then both ourselves and seed at once to free,  
From what we fear for both, let us make  
short, 1000

Let us seek Death: or he not found, supply  
With our own hands his office on ourselves,  
Why stand we longer shivering under fears,  
That show no end but death; and have the  
pow'r



Of many ways to die the shortest choosing 1005  
Destruction with destruction to destroy? —

She ended here, or vehement despair  
Broke off the rest: so much of death her  
thoughts

Had entertain'd, as dy'd her cheeks with  
pale.

But Adam, with such counsel nothing  
sway'd, 1010

To better hopes his more attentive mind  
Lab'ring had rais'd; and thus to Eve replyd.

Eve, thy contempt of life and pleasure  
seems

To ague in thee someeting more sublime,  
And excellent than what thy mind con-  
temns. 1015

But self-destruction therefore sought, refutes  
That excellence thought in thee; and implies,  
Not thy contempt, but anguish and regret  
For loss of life and pleasure overlov'd.

Or if thou covet death, as utmost end 1020

Of misery; so thinking to evade

The penalty pronounc'd; doubt not, but God  
Hath wiselier arm'd his vengeful ire, than so

To be forestall'd: much more I fear lest death,

So snatch'd, will not exempt us from the  
pain, 1025

We are by doom to pay. Rather such acts

Of contumacy will provoke the Highest,



To make death in us live! Then, let us seek  
Some safer resolution; which methinks  
I have in view, calling to mind with heed 1030  
Part of our sentence, that „*thy seed shall*  
*bruise*

„*The Serpents head*:“ Piteous amends! unless  
Be meant, whom I conjecture, our grand foe  
Satan: who in the Serpent hath contriv'd  
Against us this deceit: to crush his head 1035  
Would be revenge indeed, which will be lost  
By death brought on ourselves; or childless  
days

Resolv'd, as thou proposest: so, our foe  
Shall 'shape his punishment ordain'd; and we  
Instead shall double ours upon our heads. 1040  
No more be mention'd then of violence  
Against ourselves; and wilful barrenness,  
That cuts us off from hope; and favors only  
Rancor and pride, impatience and despite,  
Reluctance against God, and his just yoke 1045  
Faid on our necks. Remember with what mild  
And gracious temper he both heard and judg'd  
Without wrath, or reviling: we expected  
Immediate dissolution, which we thought  
Was meant by death that day, when lo! to  
thee 1050

Pains only in child-bearing were foretold,  
And bringing forth soon recompens'd with joy,  
Fruit of thy womb: on me the curse aslope







Tine the slant lightning; whose thwar flame  
driv'n down, 1075

Kindles the gummy bark of Fir, and Pine,  
And sends a comfortable heat from far,  
Which might supply the Sun. Such fire to use,  
And what may else be remedy or cure  
To evils, which our own misdeeds have  
wrought, 1080

He will instruct us praying, and of grace  
Beseeching him. So as we need not fear  
To pass commodiously this life, sustain'd  
By him with many comforts; till we end  
In dust, our final rest, and native home. 1085

What better can we do, than to the place  
Repairing where he judg'd us, prostrate fall  
Before him reverent; and there confess  
Humbly our faults, and pardon beg; with tears  
Wat'ring the ground, and with our sighs the  
air 1090

Frequenting, sent from hearts contrite, in  
sign

Of sorrow unfeign'd, and humiliation meek?  
Undoubtedly he will relent and turn  
From his displeasure: in whose look serene,  
When angry most he seem'd and most se-  
vere, 1095

What else but favor, grace, and mercy shone?

So spake our father penitent: nor Eve  
Felt less remorse. They forthwith to the place



Repairing where he judg'd them, prostrate fell  
Before him reverent; and both confess'd  
Humbly their faults; and pardon begg'd, with  
tears

Wat'ring the ground; and with their sighs the  
air

Frequenting, sent from hearts contrite; in sign  
Of sorrow unfeign'd, and humiliation meek.

*The End of the Tenth Book.*

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B O O K X I.

Thus they in lowliest plight repentant stood  
Praying; for from the mercy-seat above,  
Prevenient grace descending, had remov'd  
The stony from their hearts, and made new  
flesh

Regenerate grow instead; that sighs now  
breath'd 5

Unutterable, with the spirit of pray'r  
Inspir'd: and wing'd for Heav'n with speedier  
flight

Than loudest oratory. Yet their port  
Not of mean suitors; nor important less  
Seem'd their petition, than when th' ancient  
pair 10

In fables old, less ancient yet than these,  
Deucalion and chaste Pyrrha, to restore  
The race of mankind drown'd, before the  
shrine

Of Themis stood devout. To Heav'n their  
pray'rs

D



Flew up, nor miss'd the way, by envious  
winds 15

Blown vagabond, or frustrate: in they pass'd  
Dimensionless thro' heav'nly doors; then clad  
With incense, where the golden altar fum'd,  
By their great intercessor, came in sight  
Before the Father's throne: them the glad  
Son 20

Presenting, thus to intercede began.

See, Father, what first fruits on earth are  
sprung  
From thy implanted grace in man! these sighs  
And pray'rs, which in this golden censer,  
mix'd

With incense, I thy Priest before thee bring: 25  
Fruits of more pleasing favor from thy seed,  
Sown with contrition in his heart, than those  
Which his own hand manuring all the trees  
Of Paradise could have produc'd, e're fall'n  
From innocence. Now therefore bend thine  
ear 30

To supplication; hear his sighs though mute!  
Unthilful with what words to pray, let me  
Interpret for him; me, his advocate  
And propitiation; all his works on me,  
Good or not good ingraft: My merit those 35  
Shall perfect; and for these my death shall  
pay.

Accept me; and in me from these receive



The smell of peace tow'rd mankind: let him  
live

Before thee reconcil'd, at least his days  
Number'd, tho' sad, till Death, his doom,  
which I 40

To mitigate thus plead, not to reverse,  
To better life shall yield him; where with me  
All my redeem'd may dwell in joy and bliss;  
Made one with me, as I with thee am one.

To whom the Father, without cloud, se-  
rene. 45

All thy request for man, accepted Son,  
Obtain; all thy request was my decree.  
But longer in that Paradise to dwell,  
The law I gave to nature him forbids.  
Those pure immortal elements, that know 50  
No gross, no unharmonious mixture foul,  
Eject him tainted now; and purge him off  
As a distemper, gross to air as gross,  
And mortal food, as may dispose him best  
For dissolution wrought by sin, that first 55  
Distemper'd all things; and of incorrupt  
Corrupted, I at first with two fair gifts  
Created him endow'd, with happiness  
And immortality: that fondly lost,  
This other serv'd but to eternize woe, 60  
Till I provided Death: so Death becomes  
His final remedy: and after life,  
Try'd in sharp tribulation, and refin'd



By faith and faithful works, to second life,  
Wak'd in the renovation of the just, 65  
Religns him up with heav'n and earth re-  
new'd.

But let Us call to synod all the Blest,  
Thro' Heav'n's wide bounds: from them I  
will not hide  
My judgments, how with mankind I pro-  
ceed;

As how with peccant Angels late they saw, 70  
And in their state, tho' firm, stood more  
confirm'd.

He ended, and the Son gave signal high  
To the bright minister that watch'd: he blew  
His trumpet, heard in Orep since perhaps  
When God descended; and perhaps once  
more 75

To found at general doom. Th' Angelic  
blast

Fill'd all the regions: from their blisful  
bow'rs

Of amarantin shade, fountain or spring,  
By the waters of life, where'er they sat  
In fellowships of joy, the sons of light 80  
Hasted, resorting to the summons high,  
And took their seats: till from his throne su-  
preme

Th' Almighty thus pronounc'd his sov'reign  
will.



O Sons! like one of Us man is become,  
To know both good and evil, since his taste 85  
Of that defended fruit: but let him boast  
His knowledge of good lost, and evil got:  
Happier! had it suffic'd him, to have known  
Good by itself; and evil not at all.

He sorrows now, repents and prays con-  
trite! 90

My motions in him: longer than they move,  
His heart I know how variable and vain  
Self-left. Lest therefore his now bolder hand  
Reach also of the Tree of Life, and eat,  
And live for ever, dream at least to live 95  
For ever, to remove him I decree,

And send him from the garden forth, to till  
The ground, whence he was taken; fitter soil.

Michael, this my behest have thou in charge!  
Take to thee from among the Cherubim 100  
Thy choice of flaming warriors; lest the Fiend,  
Or in behalf of man, or to invade

Vacant possession, some new trouble raise,  
Haste thee! and from the Paradise of God  
Without remorse drive out the sinful pair; 105  
From hallow'd ground th' unholy; and de-  
nounce

To them and to their progeny from thence  
Perpetual banishment. Yet lest they faint,  
At the sad sentence rigorously urg'd,

For I behold them soften'd, and with tears 110



Bewailing their excess, all terror hide.  
If patiently thy bidding they obey,  
Dismiss them not disconsolate; reveal  
To Adam, what shall come in future days,  
As I shall thee enlighten: intermix 115  
My covenant in the woman's seed renew'd:  
So send them forth, tho' sorrowing, yet in  
peace.

And on the east-side of the garden place,  
Where entrance up from Eden easiest climbs,  
Cherubic watch; and of a sword the flame 120  
Wide-waming, all approach far off to fright,  
And guard all passage to the Tree of Life:  
Lest Paradise a receptacle prove  
To spirits foul, and all my trees their prey;  
With whose stol'n fruit man once more to  
delude. 125

He ceas'd; and th' archangelic Pow'r pre-  
par'd

For swift descent: with him the cohort bright  
Of watchful Cherubim: four faces each  
Had, like a double Janus; all their shape  
Spangled with eyes, more numerous than  
those 130  
Of Argus, and more wakeful than to drowse,  
Charm'd with Arcadian pipe, the past'ral  
reed

Of Hermes, or his opiate rod. Mean while  
To resalute the world with sacred light



Leucothea wak'd; and with fresh dews in-  
balm'd 135

The earth; when Adam, and first matron  
Eve,

Had ended now their orisons; and found  
Strength added from above; new hope to  
spring

Out of despair; joy, but with fear yet link'd:  
Which thus to Eve his welcome words  
renew'd. 140

Eve, easily may faith admit, that all  
The good, which we enjoy, from Heav'n de-  
scends:

But that from us ought should ascend to  
Heav'n

So prevalent, as to concern the mind  
Of God high-blest, or to incline his will, 145  
Hard to belief may seem: yet this will pray'r  
Or one short sigh of human breath, up-born  
Ev'n to the seat of God. For since I fought  
By pray'r th' offended Deity t' appease,  
Kneel'd, and before him humbl'd all my  
heart, 150

Methought I saw him placable and mild,  
Bending his ear: persuasion in me grew,  
That I was heard with favor; peace return'd  
Home to my breast; and to my memory  
His promise, that thy seed shall bruise our  
foe: 155



Which, then not minded in dismay, yet now  
Assures me, that the bitterness of Death  
Is past, and we shall live. Whence hail to  
thee!

Eve rightly call'd, mother of all mankind,  
Mother of all things living, since by thee 160  
Man is to live; and all things live for man!

To whom thus Eve, with sad demeanour  
meek:

Ill worthy I such title should belong  
To me transgressor, who, for thee ordain'd  
A help, became thy snare: to me reproach 165  
Rather belongs, distrust, and all dispraise.  
But infinite in pardon was my Judge,  
That I, who first brought death on all, am  
grac'd

The source of life: next favourable thou,  
Who highly thus t' intitle me vouchsaf'ft: 170  
Far other name deserving! But the field  
To labor calls us now with sweat impos'd,  
Though after sleepless night: for see! the morn,  
All unconcern'd with our unrest, begins  
Her rosy progress smiling; let us forth; 175  
I never from thy side henceforth to stray,  
Where'er our days work lies; though now  
enjoin'd

Laborious, till day droop; while here we  
dwell,

What can be toilsom in these pleasant walks?



Here let us live, though in fall'n state, con-  
tent! 180

So spake, so wish'd much-humbl'd Eve;  
but fate

Subscrib'd not: Nature first gave signs, im-  
press'd

On bird, beast, air: air suddenly eclips'd  
After short blush of morn: nigh in her sight,  
The bird of Jove, stoop'd from his aery  
tour, 185

Two birds of gayest plume before drove.  
Down from a hill the beast, that reigns in  
woods,

First hunter then, pursu'd a gentle brace,  
Goodliest of all the forest, hart and hind:  
Direct to th' eastern gate was bent their  
flight. 190

Adam observ'd, and with his eye the chase  
Persuing, not unmov'd, to Eve thus spake.

O Eve! some further change awaits us nigh,  
Which Heav'n by these mute signs in nature  
shows,

Forerunners of his purpose: or to warn 195  
Us haply too secure from death relax'd  
Some days: how long, and what till then  
our life,

Who knows, or more than this, that we are  
dust,

And thither must return and be no more? 200



Why else this double object in our sight,  
Of flight pursu'd in th' air, and o'er the  
ground,

One way the self-same hour? Why in the east  
Darkness e're day's mid course, and morning  
light

More orient in yon western cloud, that  
draws 205

O'er the blue firmament a radiant white;  
And slow descends, with something heav'nly  
fraught?

He err'd not; for by this the heav'nly  
bands

Down from a sky of jasper lighted now  
In Paradise, and on a hill made halt: 210

A glorious apparition! had not doubt  
And carnal fear that day dimm'd Adam's eye.  
Not that more glorious, when the Angels met  
Jacob in Mahanaim, where he saw  
The field pavilion'd with his guardians  
bright: 215

Nor that, which on the flaming mount ap-  
pear'd

In Dothan, cov'd with a camp of fire,  
Against the Syrian king; who to surprise  
One man, assassin like, had levied war,  
War unproclaim'd. The princely Hierarch 220  
In their bright stand there left his Pow'rs, to  
seize



Possession of the garden: alone,  
To find, where Adam shelter'd, took his way;  
Not unperceiv'd of Adam, who to Eve,  
While the great visitant approach'd, thus  
spake. 225

Eve, now expect great tidings, which  
perhaps

Of us will soon determine; or impose  
New laws to be observ'd: for I descry,  
From yonder blazing cloud, that veils the hill  
One of the heav'nly host, and by his gait 230  
None of the meanest: some great Potentate,  
Or of the Thrones above; such majesty  
Invests him coming! yet not terrible  
That I should fear, nor sociably mild,  
As Raphael, that I should much confide. 235  
But solemn and sublime: whom not t' offend,  
With reverence I must meet, and thou retire.

He ended, and th' Arch-Angel soon drew  
nigh,

Not in his shape celestial, but as man  
Clad to meet man: over his lucid arms 240  
A military vest of purple flow'd,  
Livelier than Meliboean, or the grain  
Of Sarra, worn by Kings and Heroes old  
In time of truce: Iris had dipt the woof:  
His starry helm unbuckl'd, shew'd him  
prime 245  
In manhood, where youth ended: by his side



As in a glist'ring Zodiac hung the sword,  
Satan's dire dread; and in his hand the spear.  
Adam bow'd low: he kingly from his state  
Inclin'd not, but his coming thus declar'd. 250

Adam! Heav'n's high-behest no preface  
needs:

Sufficient that thy pray'rs are heard, and  
Death,

Then due by sentence when thou didst trans-  
gress,

Defeated of his seizure may days

Giv'n thee of grace, wherein thou may'st  
repent, 255

And one bad act with many deeds well  
done

May'st cover: well may then thy Lord, ap-  
peas'd,

Redeem thee quite from Death's rapacious  
claim.

But longer in this Paradise to dwell

Permits not: to remove thee I am come, 260

And send thee from the garden forth, to till

The ground, whence thou wast taken, fitter  
soil.

He added not; for Adam at the news  
Heart-struck with chilling gripe of sorrow  
stood,

That all his senses bound! Eve, who un-  
seen 265



Yet all had heard, with audible lament  
Discover'd soon the place of her retire.

O unexpected stroke, worse than of Death!  
Must I thus leave thee, Paradise? thus leave  
Thee, native soil, these happy walks and  
shades, 270

Fit haunt of Gods? where I had hope to  
spend,

Quiet though sad, the respite of that day,  
That must be mortal to us both! O flow'rs,  
That never will in other climate grow;

My early visitation, and my last 275

At ev'n, which I bred up with tender hand  
From the first op'ning bud, and gave you  
names,

Who now shall rear you to the Sun, or rank  
Your tribes, and water from th' ambrosial  
fount?

Thee lastly, nuptial bow'r, by me adorn'd 280  
With what to sight or smell was sweet, from  
thee

How shall I part, and whither wander down  
Into a lower world; to this obscure  
And wild? How shall we breathe in other  
air

Less pure, accusom'd to immortal fruits? 285

Whom thus the Angel interrupted mild:  
Lament not, Eve, put patiently resign,  
What justly thou hast lost: nor set thy heart



Thus over-fond on that, which is not thine.  
Thy going is not lonely: with thee goes 290  
Thy husband; him to follow thou art bound:  
Where he abides, think there thy native soil.

Adam, by this from the cold sudden damp  
Recovering, and his scatter'd spirits return'd,  
'To Michael thus his humble words ad-  
drefs'd. 295

Celestial, whether among the Thrones, or  
nam'd  
Of them the highest; for such of shape may  
seem

Prince above Princes! gently hast thou told  
Thy message, which might else in telling  
wound,

And in performing end us, what besides 300  
Of sorrow, and dejection, and despair,  
Our frailty can sustain, thy tidings bring,  
Departure from this happy place, our sweet  
Recess, and only consolation left

Familiar to our eyes! all places else 305  
Inhospitable appear, and desolate;  
Nor knowing us, nor known. And if by  
pray'r

Incessant, I could hope to change the will  
Of him, who all things can, I would not cease  
To weary him with my assiduous cries. 310  
But pray'r against his absolute decree  
No more avails than breath against the wind;



Blown stifling back on him, that breathes it  
forth:

Therefore to his great bidding I submit.

This most afflicts me, that departing hence, 315

As from his face I shall be hid depriv'd

His blessed count'nance! Here I could fre-  
quent

With worship place by place, where he vouch-  
saf'd

Presence divine; and to my sons relate:

„On this mount he appear'd; under this  
tree 320

„Stood visible; among these pines his voice

„I heard; here with him at this fountain  
talk'd.“

So many grateful altars I would rear

Of grassy turf; and pile up every stone

Of lustre from the brook; in memory, 325

Or monument to ages: and thereon

Offer sweet smelling gums, and fruits, and  
flow'rs.

I yonder nether world where shall I seek

His bright appearances, or foot-step trace?

For though I fled him angry, yet recall'd 330

To life prolong'd, and promis'd race I now

Gladly behold though but his utmost skirts

Of glory, and far off his steps adore.

To whom thus Michael with regard  
benign.



Adam! thou know'st Heav'n his, and all the  
earth, 335

Not this rock only. His omnipresence fills  
Land, sea, and air, and every kind that lives,  
Fomented by his virtual pow'r, and warm'd.  
All th' earth he gave thee to possess, and rule:  
No despiciable gift! surmise not then 340  
His presence to these narrow bounds con-  
fin'd

Of Paradise or Eden: this had been  
Perhaps thy capital seat, from whence had  
spread

All generations; and had hither come  
From all the ends of th' earth, to cele-  
brate 345

And reverence thee their great progenitor,  
But this praeceminence thou hast lost, brought  
down

To dwell on even ground now with thy  
sons.

Yet doubt not but in vallay and in plain  
God is as here, and will be found alike 350  
Present, and of his presence many a sign  
Still following thee, still compassing the  
round

With goodness, and paternal love, his face  
Express, and of his steps the track divine.  
Which that thou may'st believe and be con-  
firm'd, 355

Ere



Ere thou from hence depart, know, I am sent  
To show thee, what shall come in future days  
To thee and to thy offspring: good with bad  
Expect to hear, supernal grace contending  
With sinfulness of men; thereby to learn 360  
True patience, and to temper joy with fear  
And pious sorrow, equally inur'd  
By moderation either state to bear,  
Prosperous or adverse: so shalt thou lead  
Safest thy life, and best prepar'd indure 365  
Thy mortal passage when it comes. Ascend  
This hill. Let Eve, for I have drench'd her  
                                          eyes,  
Here sleep below, while thou to foresight  
                                          wak'st,  
As once thou slept'st, whilst she to life was  
                                          form'd.

To whom thus Adam gratefully reply'd: 370  
Ascend, I follow thee, safe Guide! the path  
Thou lead'st me; and to the hand of Heav'n  
                                          submit,  
However chast'ning: to the evil turn  
My obvious breast; arming to overcome  
By suffering, and earn rest from labor  
                                          won: 375

It so I may attain. — So both ascend,  
In the visions of God. It was a hill,  
Of Paradise the highest; from whose top  
The hemisphere of earth, in clearest ken



Stretch'd out to th'amplect reach of prospect  
lay. 380

Not higher that hill nor wider looking round,  
Whereon for different cause the tempter set  
Our second Adam, in the wilderness;  
To shew him earth's kingdoms and their  
glory.

His eye might there command, wherever  
stood 385

City of old or modern fame, the seat  
Of mightiest empire! from the distin'd walls  
Of Cambalu, seat of Cathaian Cham:  
And Samarchand by Oxus, Tatemi's throne;  
To Peking, of Sinean kings: and thence 390  
To Agra and Lahor of great Mogul  
Down to the golden Chersonese; or where  
The Persian in Ecbatan sat: or since  
In Hispahan: or, where the Russian Zsar  
In Moscow; or the Sultan in Biyance, 395  
Turchestan-born: nor could his eye not ken  
\*) Th' empire of Negus, to his utmost port  
Ercoco; and the less maritim Kings,  
Moubaza, and Quiloa, and Melind,  
And Sofala thought Ophir, to the realm 400  
Of Congo, and Angola farthest south:  
Or thence, from Niger flood to Atlas mount  
The Kingdoms of Almanzor, Fez and Suz,

\*) *Ethiopia.*



Marocco, and Algiers, and Tremisen:

On Europe thence, and where Rome was to  
sway 405

The world: in spirit perhaps he also saw

Rich Mexico, the seat of Montezume,

And Culco in Peru, the richer seat

Of Atabalipa; and yet unspoil'd

Guiana; whose \*) great city Geryon's sons

Call El Dorado. But to nobler sights, 410

Michael from Adam's eyes the film remov'd,

Which that false fruit, that promis'd clearer  
sight,

Had bred; then purg'd with euphrasy and rue

The visual nerve, for he had much to see; 415

And from the well of life three drops instill'd.

So deep the pow'r of these ingredients pierc'd,

Ev'n to the inmost seat of mental sight,

That Adam, now inforc'd to close his eyes,

Sunk down, and all his spirits became in-  
tranc'd: 420

But him the gentle Angel by the hand

Soon rais'd, and his attention thus recall'd.

Adam, now ope thine eyes, and first be-  
hold

Th' effects, which thy original crime hath  
wrought

E 2

\*) *Manoa*.



In some to spring from thee: who never  
touch'd 425

Th' excepted tree; nor with the snake con-  
spir'd;

Nor sinn'd thy sin: yet from that sin derive  
Corruption, to bring forth more violent deeds.

His eyes he open'd, and beheld a field,  
Part arable and tilth, whereon were shea-  
ves 430

New reap'd: the other part, sheep-walks and  
folds:

In the midst an altar as the land-mark stood,  
Rustic, of grassy sod: thither anon

A sweaty reaper from his tillage brought  
First fruits, the green ear, and the yellow  
sheaf, 435

Uncull'd, as came to hand. A shepherd next  
More meek, came with the firstlings of his  
flock,

Choicest and best: then sacrificing, laid  
The inwards and their fat, with incense  
strow'd,

On the cleft wood, and all due rites per-  
form'd, 440

His offering soon propitious fire from Heav'n  
Consum'd with nimble glance, and grateful  
steam.

The other's not, for his was not sincere.  
Whereat he inly rag'd, and as they talk'd



Smote him into the midriff with a stone, 445  
That beat out life: he fell, and deadly pale  
Groan'd out his soul with gushing blood  
effus'd!

Much at that sight was Adam in his heart  
Dismay'd, and thus in haste to th' Angel cry'd.

O Teacher! some great mischief hath be-  
fall'n 450

To that meek man, who well had sacrific'd:  
Is piety thus, end pure devotion paid?

T' whom Michael thus, he also mov'd, re-  
ply'd:

These two are brethren, Adam, and to come  
Out of thy loins: th' unjust the just hath  
slain; 455

For envy, that his brother's offering found  
From Heav'n acceptance: but the bloody fact  
Will be aveng'd; and th' other's faith ap-  
prov'd,

Lose no reward, though here thou see him  
die,

Rolling in dust and gore. To which our  
fire: 460

Alas, both for the deed and for the cause!  
But have I now seen Death? is this the way  
I must return to native dust? O sight  
Of terror, foul and ugly to behold,  
Horrid to think, how horrible to feel! 465

To whom thus Michael. Death thou hast seen



In his first shape on man: but many shapes  
Of Death, and many are the ways that lead  
To his grim cave: all dismal! yet to sense  
More terrible at th' entrance than within. 470  
Some, as thou saw'st, by violent stroke shall  
die:

By fire, flood, famine: by intemperance  
more

In meats and drinks, which on the earth  
shall bring

Diseases dire: of which a monstrous crew  
Before thee shall appear; that thou may'st  
know, 475

What misery th' inabstinence of Eve  
Shall bring on men. Immediately a place  
Before his eyes appear'd, sad, noisome, dark,  
A lazar-house it seem'd; wherein were laid  
Numbers of all diseas'd: all maladies 480  
Of ghastly spasm, or racking torture, qualms  
Of heart-sick agony, all fev'rous kind's,  
Convulsions, epilepsies, fierce catarrhs,  
Intestin stone, and ulcer, cholic pangs,  
Daemoniac phrenzy, moaping melancholy, 485  
And moon-struck madness, pining atrophy,  
Marasmus, and wide-wasting pestilence,  
Dropries, and asthmas, and joint-racking  
rheums.

Dire was the tossing, deep the groans!  
Despair



Tended the sick busiest from couch to couch : 490  
And over them triumphant Death his dart  
Shook; but delay'd to strike, though oft in-  
vok'd

With vows, as their chief good, and final  
hope,

Sight so deform what heart of rock could  
long

Dry-ey'd behold? Adam could not, but  
wept, 495

Though not of woman born; compassion  
quell'd

His best of man, and gave him up to tears  
A space; till firmer thoughts restrain'd excess,  
And scarce recovering words his plaint re-  
new'd.

O miserable mankind! to what fall 500  
Degraded, to what wretched state reserv'd!  
Better end here unborn! Way is life giv'n  
To be thus wrested from us? rather, why  
Obtruded on us thus? who, if we knew,  
What we receive, would either not ac-  
cept 505

Life offer'd; or soon beg to lay it down;  
Glad to be so dismiss'd in peace. Can thus  
Th' image of God in man, created once  
So goodly and erect, though faulty since  
To such unsightly sufferings be debas'd, 510  
Under inhuman pains? Why should not man,



Retaining still divine similitude  
In part, from such deformities be free,  
And for his Maker's image sake exempt?

Their Maker's image, answer'd Michael,  
then 515  
Forsook them, when themselves they vi-  
lified

To serve ungovern'd appetite: and took  
His image whom they serv'd, and brutish  
vice,

Inductive mainly to the sin of Eve:  
Therefore so abject is their punishment, 520  
Disfiguring not God's likeness, but their  
own:

Or if his likeness, by themselves defac'd,  
While they pervert pure nature's healthful  
rules

To loathsome sickness; worthily, since they  
God's image did not reverence in them-  
selves. 525

I yield it just, said Adam, and submit!  
But is there yet no other way, besides  
These painful passages, hom we may come  
To death, and mix with our connatural  
dust?

There is, said Michael, if thou well ob-  
serve 530  
The rule not of too much; by temperance  
taught



In what thou eat'st and drink'st; seeking from  
thence

Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight,  
Till many years over thy head return:

So mayst thou live; till like ripe fruit thou  
drop 535

Into thy mother's lap: or be with ease

Gather'd, not harshly pluck'd, for death  
mature.

This is old age: but then, thou must outlive  
Thy youth, thy strength, thy beauty; which  
will change

To wither'd, weak, and gray: thy senses  
than 540

Obtuse, all taste of pleasure must forgo,

To what thou hast; and for the air of youth,  
Hopeful, and chearful, in thy blood will  
reign

A melancholy damp of cold and dry,  
To weigh thy spirits down; and last con-  
sume 545

The balm of life. To whom our ancestor:

Henceforth I fly not death, nor would  
prolong

Life much: bent rather, how I may be quit

Fairest and easiest of this cumbrous charge,

Which I must keep till my appointed day 550

Of rendring up, patiently attend

My dissolution! Michaël reply'd.



Nor love thy life, nor hate: but what thou  
liv'st

Live well; how long, or short, permit to  
Heav'n.

And now prepare thee for another fight. 555

He look'd, and saw a spacious plain, whe-  
reon

Were tents of various hue: by some, were  
herds

Of cattle grazing: others, whence the sound  
Of instruments, that made melodious chime,  
Was heard, of harp, and organ, and who  
mov'd 560

Their stops and chords was seen: his volant  
touch

Instinct through all proportions, low and  
high,

Fled and persu'd transverse the resonant fugue.

In other part stood one, who at the forge  
Lab'ring, two massy clods of iron and  
brass 565

Had melted, whether found where casual fire  
Had wasted woods on mountain or in vale,  
Down to the veins of earth, thence gliding  
hot

To some cav'es mouth, or whether wash'd by  
stream

From underground, the liquid ore he  
drain'd 570



Into fit molds prepar'd, from which he form'd  
First his own tools, then, what might else be  
wrought

Fusil or grav'n in metal. After these,  
But on the hither side, a different sort  
From the high neighb'ring hills, which was  
their seat, 575

Down to the plain descended: by their guise  
Just men they seem'd; and know his works  
Not hid; nor those things last, which might  
preserve

Freedom and peace to men: they on the  
plain 580

Long had not walk'd, when from the tents  
behold

A bevy of fair woman, richly gay  
In gems and wanton drefs; tho th' harp they  
sung

Soft amorous ditties, and in dance came on!  
The men, tho' grave, ey'd them, and let their  
eyes 585

Rove without rein, till in the amorous net  
Fast caught, they lik'd, and each his liking  
chose:

And now of love they treat, till th' ev'ning  
star

Love's harbinger, appear'd: then all in heat  
They light the nuptial torch, and bid in-  
voke 590



Hymen, then first to marriage rites invok'd:  
With feast and music all the tents resound,  
Such happy interview, and fair event  
Of love and youth not lost, songs, garlands,  
flow'rs.

And charming symphonies, attach'd the  
heart 595

Of Adam, soon inclin'd t' admit delight,  
The bent of Nature! which he thus express'd.

True opener of mine eyes, prime angel blest!  
Much better seems this vision, and more hope  
Of peaceful days portends, than those two  
past: 600

Those were of hate, and death, or pain much  
worse:

Here Nature seems fulfill'd in all her ends.

To whom thus Michael. Judge not, what  
is best

By pleasure, though to nature seeming meet,  
Created, as thou art, to nobler end 605

Holy and pure, conformity divine!

Those tents thou saw'st so pleasant, were the  
tents

Of wickedness, wherein shall dwell his race,  
Who slew his brother: studious they appear

Of arts that polish life, inventors rare; 610

Unmindful of their Maker, though his Spirit

Taught them; but they his gifts acknowledg'd  
none,



Yet they a beauteous offspring shall beget:  
For that fair female troop, thou saw'st, that  
seem'd

Of Goddesses, so blithe, so smooth, so gay, 615  
Yet empty of all good, wherein consists  
Woman's domestic honor and chief praise,  
Bred only and completed to the taste  
Of lustful appetite; to sing, to dance,  
To dress, and troll the tongue, and roll the  
eye 620

To those, that sober race of men, whose  
lives

Religious titled them the sons of God,  
Shall yield up all their virtue, all their fame  
Ignobly! to the trains and to the smiles  
Of these fair atheists; and now swim in joy, 625  
Erelong to swim at large, and laugh: for  
which

The world ere long a world of tears must  
weep!

To whom thus Adam of short joy bereft.  
O pity and shame! that they, who to live  
well

Enter'd so fair, should turn aside to tread 630  
Paths indirect, or in the mid way faint!  
But still I see the tenor of man's woe  
Hold on the same, from woman to begin.

From man's effeminate slackness it begins;  
Said th' Angel, who should better hold his place



By wisdom and superior gifts receiv'd.  
But now prepare thee for another scene.

He look'd, and saw wide territory spread  
Before him, towns and rural works between:  
Cities of men with lofty gates and tow'rs; 640  
Concourse in arms, fierce faces threathning  
war;

Giants of mighty bone, and bold emprise!  
Part wield their arms, part curb the foaming  
steed:

Single or in array of battle rang'd  
Both horse and food; nor idly must'ring  
stood: 645

One way a hand select from forage drives  
A herd of beeves, fair oxen and fair kine  
From a fat meadow-ground; or fleecy flock,  
Ewes and their bleating lambs over the plain;  
Their booty: scarce with life the shepherd  
fly, 650

But call in aid, which makes a bloody fray.  
With cruel tournament the squadrons join!  
Where cattle pastur'd late, now scatter'd lies  
With carcases, and arms th' insanguin'd field,  
Deserted. Others, to a city strong 655  
Lay siege, incamp'd; by batt'ry, scale, and  
mine

Affaulting: others from the wall defend  
With dart and jav'lin, stones and sulph'rous  
fire:



On each hand slaughter and gigantic deed.  
In other part the sceptred Heralds call 660  
To council in the city gates: anon  
Grey-headed men and grave, with warriors  
mix'd,

Assemble, and harangues are heard: but soon  
In factious opposition: till at last  
Of middle age one rising, eminent 665  
In wise deport, spake much of right and  
wrong,

Of justice, of religion, truth and peace,  
And judgment from above. Him old and  
young

Exploded, and had seiz'd with violent  
hands;

Had not a cloud descending snatch'd him  
thence, 670

Unseen amid the throng. So violence  
Proceeded, and oppression, and sword-law  
Through all the plain, and refuge none was  
found.

Adam was all in tears, and to his guide  
Lamenting turn'd full sad: O what are  
these! 675

Death's minister's, not men! who thus deal  
death

Inhumanly to men, and multiply  
Ten thousand fold the sin of him, who slew  
His brother: for of whom such massacre



Make they but of their brethren; men of  
men? 680

But who was that just man, whom had not  
Heav'n

Rescued, had in his righteousness been lost?

To whom thus Michael. These are the  
product

Of those ill-match'd marriages thou saw'st;  
Where good with bad were match'd; who of  
themselves 685

Abhor to joint and by imprudence mix'd.

Produce prodigious births of body or mind.

Such were these giant; men of high renown!

For in those days might only shall be admir'd,

And valor and heroic virtue call'd: 690

To overcome in battel, and subdue

Nations, and bring home spoils with infinite

Man-slaughter, shall be held the highest pitch

Of human glory; and for glory done

Of triumph, to be styl'd great conquerors, 695

Patrons of mankind, Gods, and sons of Gods,

Destroyers rightlier call'd, and plagues of men.

Thus fame shall be atchiev'd, renown on earth;

And what most merits fame in silence hid.

But he, the seventh from thee, whom thou  
beheldst, 700

The only righteous in a world perverse,

And therefore hated, therefore so beset

With foes, for daring single to be just,

And



And utter odious truth, that God would come  
To judge them with Sains: him the Most  
High 705

Rapt in a balmy cloud with winged steeds,  
Did, as thou saw'st, receive; to walk with  
God

High in salvation, and the climes of bliss,  
Exempt from death; to shew thee, what re-  
ward

Awaits the good; the rest, what punish-  
ment: 710

Which now direct thine eyes, and soon be-  
hold.

He look'd, and saw the face of things quite  
chang'd:

The brazen throat of war had ceas'd to roar;  
All now turn'd to jollity, and game,  
To luxury and riot, feast and dance; 715  
Marrying or prostituting, as besel,  
Rape or adultery, where passing fair  
Allur'd them: thence from cups, to civil  
broils.

At length a reverend sire among them came,  
And of their doings great dislike declar'd, 720  
And testify'd against their ways: he oft  
Frequented their assemblies, where so met,  
Triumphs or festivals, and to them preach'd  
Conversion and repentance: as to souls  
In prison under judgments imminent: 725



But all in vain! which when he saw, he ceas'd  
Contending, and remov'd his tents far off.

Then from the mountain hewing timber tall,  
Began to build a vessel of huge bulk;  
Measur'd by cubit, length and breadth and  
height; 730

Smear'd round with pitch; and in the side a  
door

Contriv'd; and of provisions laid in large,  
For man and beast: when lo, o wonder  
strange!

Of every beast, and bird, and insect small  
Came sevens, and pairs, and enter'd in, as  
taught 735

Their order: last the fire, and his three sons  
With their four wives, and God made fast the  
door.

Meanwhile the southwind rose, and with black  
wings

Wide-hov'ring, all the clouds together drove  
From under Heav'n; the hills to their  
supply 740

Vapor, and exhalation dusk and moist,  
Sent up amain: and now the thicken'd sky  
Like a dark ceiling stood; down rush'd the  
rain

Impetuous: and continu'd till the earth  
No more was seen: the floating vessel  
swum 745



Uplifted; an secure with beaked prow  
Rode tilting o'er the waves: all dwellings else  
Flood overwhelm'd, and them with all their  
pomp

Deep under water roll'd: sea cover'd sea;  
Sea without shore! and in their palaces, 750  
Where luxury late reign'd, sea-monsters  
whelp'd

And stabled: of mankind, so numerous late,  
All left, in one small bottom swum imbark'd.  
How didst thou grive then, Adam, to behold  
The end of all thy offspring, end so sad, 755  
Depopulation! Thee another flood,  
Of tears and sorrow a flood thee also drown'd,  
And sunk thee as thy sons; till gently rear'd  
By th' Angel, on thy feet thou stood'st at last,  
Tho' comfortless; as when a father mourns 760  
His children, all in view destroy'd at once:  
And scarce to th' Angel utter'dst thus thy plaint.

O visions ill foreseen! Better had I  
Liv'd ignorant of future, so had born  
My part of evil only, each day's lot 765  
Enough to bear: those now, that were dis-  
pens'd

The burden of many ages, on me light  
At once, by my foreknowledge gaining birth  
Abortive, to torment me ere their being,  
With thought, that they must be. Let no men  
seek 770



Henceforth, to be foretold, what shall befall  
Him or his children: evil he may be sure:  
Which neither his foreknowing can prevent;  
And he the future evil shall no less  
In apprehension than in substance feel; 775  
Grievous to bear! But that care now is past,  
Man is not whom to warn: those few escap'd  
Famine and anguish will at last consume  
Wandering that watry desert. I had hope,  
When violence was ceas'd, and war on  
earth, 780  
All would have then gone well, peace would  
have crown'd  
With length of happy days the race of man.  
But I was far deceiv'd! For now I see  
Peace to corrupt no less than war to waste.  
How comes it thus? Unfold, celestial guide!  
785  
And whether here the race of man will end.  
To whom thus Michael. Those, whom last  
thou saw'st  
In triumph and luxurious wealth, are they  
First seen in acts of prowess eminent  
And great exploits; but of true virtue  
void: 790  
Who having spilt much blood, and done much  
waste,  
Subduing nations; and achiev'd thereby  
Fame in the world, high titles, and rich prey;



Shall change their course to pleasure, ease and  
sloth,

Surfeit, and lust; till wantonness and pride 795

Raise out of friendship hostile deeds in peace.

The conquer'd also, and enslav'd by war,

Shall with their freedom lest all virtue lose

And fear of God; from whom their piety  
feign'd

In sharp contest of battel found no aid 800

Against invaders: therefore cool'd in zeal,

Thenceforth shall practise how to live secure,

Worldly or dissolute, on what their Lords

Shall leave them to enjoy: for th' earth shall  
bear

More than enough, that temperance may be  
try'd: 805

So all shall turn degenerate, all deprav'd;

Justice and temperance, truth and faith forgot!

One man except, the only son of light

In a dark age, against example good,

Against allurements, custom, and a world 810

Offended, fearless of reproach and scorn,

Or violence; he of their wicked ways

Shall them admonish; and before them set

The paths of righteousness, how much mo-  
re safe,

And full of peace, denouncing wrath to  
come 815

On their impenitence; and shall return



Of them derided. But, of God observ'd,  
The one just man alive, by his command  
Shall build a wandrous ark, as thou beheldst,  
To save himself and household, from  
amidst 820

A world devote to universal wrack.  
No sooner he with them of man and beast  
Select for life shall in the ark be lodg'd,  
And shelter'd round, but all the cataracts  
Of Heav'n set open on the earth shall pour 825  
Rain day and night: all fountains of the deep  
Broke up, shall heave the ocean, to usurp  
Beyond all bounds, till inundation rise  
Above the highest hills. Then shall this  
mount

Of Paradise, by might of waves be mov'd 830  
Out of his place, push'd by the horned  
flood,

With all his verdure spoil'd, and trees adrift,  
Down the great river to the opening gulf,  
And there take, root and island salt and bare,  
The haunt of Seals, and Orcs, and Sea-mews  
clang; 835

To teach thee, that God attributes to place  
No sanctity, if none be thither brought  
By men, who there frequent, or therein dwell.  
And now what further shall ensue behold.

He look'd, and saw the ark hull on the  
flood, 840



Which now abated: for the clouds were fled,  
Driv'n by a keen north-wind, that blowing dry  
Wrinkled the face of deluge, as decay'd;  
And the clear sun on his wide watry glass  
Gaz'd hot, and of the fresh wave largely  
drew, 845

As after thirst: which made their flowing shrink  
From standing lake to tripping ebb, that stole  
With soft foot tow'rs the deep, who now  
had stopt

His sluices, as the Heav'n his windows shut.  
The Ark no more now flotes, but seems on  
ground 850

Fast on the top of some high mountain fix'd.  
And now the tops of hills as rocks appear:  
With clamor thence rapid currents drive,  
Tow'rs the retreating sea their furious tide.  
Forthwith from out the ark a raven flies, 855  
And after him, the surer messenger,  
A dove sent forth once and again to spy  
Green tree or ground, whereon his food may  
light;

The second time returning, in his bill  
An olive-leaf he brings, pacific sign! 860  
Anon dry ground appears, and from his ark  
The ancient sire descends with all his train:  
Then with uplifted hands, and eyes devout,  
Grateful to Heav'n over his head beholds  
A dewy cloud, and in the cloud a bow 865



Conspicuous with three list'd colors gay,  
Betokening peace from God, and cov'nant new.  
Whereat the heart of Adam, erst so sad,  
Greatly rejoyc'd, and thus his joy broke forth.

O thou, who future things canst represent 870  
A present, heav'nly instructor! I revive  
At this last sight, assur'd, that man shall live  
With all the creatures, and their seed preserve.  
Far less I now lament for one whole world  
Of wicked sons destroy'd, that I rejoice 875  
For one man found so perfect and so just,  
That God vouchsafes to raise another world  
From him, and all his anger to forget.  
But say, what mean those color'd streaks in  
heav'n

Distended as the brow of God appeas'd: 880  
Or serve they as a flow'ry verge to bind  
The fluid skirts of that same wat'ry cloud,  
Lest it again dissolve and show'r the earth?

To whom th' Arch-Angel. Dextrously thou  
aimst;

So willingly doth God remit his ire, 885  
Though late repenting him of man deprav'd;  
Griev'd at his heart, when looking down he  
saw

The whole earth fill'd with violence; and all  
flesh

Corrupting each their way : yet, those remov'd,  
Such grace shall one just man find in his sight, 890



That he relents, not to blot out mankind,  
And makes a covenant, never to destroy  
The earth again by flood; nor let the sea  
Surpass his bounds; nor rain to drown the  
world,

With man therein or beast: but when he  
brings 895

Over the earth a cloud, will therein set  
His triple-color'd bow, whereon to look,  
All call to mind his covenant: day and night,  
Seed-time and harvest, heat and hoary frost  
Shall hold their course; till fire purge all  
things new,

Both Heav'n and Earth, wherein the just shall  
dwell.

*The End of the Eleventh Book.*

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Fresh in their minds, fearing the Deity, 15  
 With some regard to what is just and right  
 Shall lead their lives, and multiply apace;  
 Lab'ring the soil, and reaping plenteous crop,  
 Corn, wine and oil; and from the herd, or  
 flock,

Oft sacrificing bullock, lamb, or kid, 20  
 With large wine-offerings pour'd, and sacred  
 feast,

Shall spend their days in joy unblam'd and  
 dwell

Long time in peace by families and tribes  
 Under paternal rule; till one shall rise  
 Of proud ambitious heart; who not con-  
 tent 25

With fair equality, fraternal state;  
 Will arrogate dominion undeserv'd  
 Over his brethren, and quite dispossess  
 Concord and law of nature from the earth;  
 Hunting, and men, not beasts, shall be his  
 game, 30

With war and hostile snare such as refuse  
 Subjection to his empire tyrannous.  
 A mighty hunter thence he shall be styl'd  
 Before the Lord; as in despite of Heav'n,  
 Of from Heav'n claiming second sov'reignty: 35  
 And from rebellion shall derive his name;  
 Though of rebellion others he accuse.  
 He with a crew, whom like ambition joins



With him or under him to tyrannize,  
Marching from Eden tow'rs the west, shall  
find 40

The plain, wherein a black bituminous  
gurge

Boils out from under ground, the mouth of  
hell.

Of brick, and of that stuff they cast to  
build

A city and tow'r, whose top may reach to  
Heav'n;

And get themselves a name: lest far di-  
spers'd 45

In foreign lands their memory be lost;  
Regardless wether good or evil fame.

But God, who of descends to visit men

Unseen, and through their habitations walks,  
To mark their doings, them beholding  
soon, 50

Comes down to see their city, ere the tow'r  
Obstruct Heav'n-tow'rs; and in derision sets  
Upon their tongues a various spirit, to raise  
Quite out their native language: and instead  
To sow a jangling noise of words unknown. 55

Forthwith a hideous gabble rises loud

Among the builders: each to other calls

Not understood; till hoarse, and all in rage,

As mock'd they storm: great laughter was in  
Heav'n,



And looking down, to see the hubbub  
strage, 60

And hear the din: thus was the building left  
Ridiculous; and the work Confusion nam'd.,

Whereto thus Adam, fatherly displeas'd.

O execrable son! so to aspire

Above his brethren; to himself assuming 65

Authority usurp'd, from God not giv'n.

He gave us only over beast, fish, fowl,

Dominion absolute; that right we hold

By his donation: but man over men

He made not Lord: such title to himself 70

Reserving, human left from human free,

But this usurper his encroachment proud

Stays not on man: to God his tow'r intends

Siege and defiance. Wretched man! What  
food

Will he convey up thither to sustain 75

Himself and his rash army; where thin air

Above the clouds will pine his entrails gross;

And famish him of breath, if not of bread?

To whom thus Michael. Justly thou ab-  
horr'st

That son, who on the quiet state of men 80

Such trouble brought, affecting to subdue

Rational liberty: yet know withal,

Since by original lapse, true liberty

Is lost, which always with right reason  
dwells



Twin'd, and from her hath no dividual  
being: 85

Reason in man obscur'd, or not obey'd,  
Immediately inordinate desires  
And upstart passions catch the government  
From reason; and to servitude reduce  
Man till then free. Therefore, since he per-  
mits 90

Within himself unworthy pow'rs to reign  
Over free reason; God in judgment just  
Subjects him from without to violent lords:  
Who oft as undeservedly inthrall  
His outward freedom. Tyranny must be; 95  
Though to the tyrant thereby no excuse.  
Yet sometimes nations will decline so low  
From virtue, which in reason, that no  
wrong,

But justice, and some fatal curse annex'd,  
Deprives them of their outward liberty; 100  
Their inward lost; witness th' irreverent son  
Of him, who built the Ark; who for the  
shame

Done to his father, heard his heavy curse.  
„*Servant of Servants*,“ on his vicious race.  
Thus will this latter, as the former world, 105  
Still tend from bad to worse; till God at last  
Wearied with their iniquities; withdraw  
His presence from among them, and avert  
His holy eyes; resolving from thenceforth



To leave them to their own polluted  
ways: 110

And one peculiar nation to select  
From all the rest, of whom to be invoc'd,  
A nation from one faithful man to spring:  
Him on this side Euphrates yet residing,  
Bred up in idol-worship. O that men 115  
Canst thou believe? should be so stupid  
grown,

While yet the patriarch liv'd, who scap'd  
the flood,

As to forsake the living God, and fall  
To worship their own work in wood and  
stone

For Gods! yet him God the most High vouch  
safes, 120

To cast by vision from his father's house,  
His kindred and false Gods, into at land,  
Which he will shew him: and from him will  
raise

A mighty nation! and upon him show'r  
His benediction so, that in his seed 125  
All nations shall be blest: he straight obeys.  
Not knowing to what land, yet firm be-  
lieves.

I see him, but thou canst not, with what  
faith

He leaves his Gods, his friends, and native  
soil,



Ur of Chaldaea, passing now the ford 130  
To Haran: after him a cumbrous train  
Of herds and flocks, and numerous servitude:  
Not wand'ring poor, but trusting all his  
wealth

With God, who call'd him, in a land un-  
known.

Canaan he now attains; I see his tents 135  
Pitch'd about Sichem, and the neighb'ring  
plain

Of Moreh. There by promise he receives  
Gift to his progeny of all that land;  
From Hamath northward to the desert south;  
Things by their names I call, tho yet un-  
nam'd, 140

From Hermon east, to the great western sea;  
Mount Hermon, yonder sea, each place be-  
hold

In prospect, as I point them, on the shore  
Mount Carmel; here the double-founted  
stream,

Jordan, true limit eastward: but his sons 145  
Shall dwell to Senir, that long ridge of hills.  
This ponder, that all nations of the earth  
Shall in his seed be blessed: by that seed  
Is meant thy great Deliverer, who shall  
bruise

The serpent's head; whereof to the anon 150  
Plainlier shall be reveal'd. This Patriarch blest,  
Whom



Whom faithful Abraham due time shall call  
 A son, and of his son a grand-child leaves;  
 Like him in faith, is wisdom, and renown.  
 The grand-child with twelve sons increas'd  
 departs 155

From Canaan, to a land hereafter call'd  
 Egypt, divided by river Nile:  
 Seere where it flows, disgorging at seven  
 mouths

Into the sea! To sojourn in that land  
 He comes, invited by a younger son 160  
 In time of dearth; a son, whose worthy  
 deeds

Raise him to be the second in that realm  
 Of Pharaoh: there he dies, and leaves his  
 race

Growing into a nation: and now grown,  
 Suspected to a sequent king, who seeks 165  
 To stop their overgrowth, as innade guests  
 Too numerous; whence of guests he makes  
 them slaves

Inhospitably; and kills their infant males:  
 Till by two brethren, those two brethren call  
 Moses and Aaron, sent from God so claim 170  
 His people from inthralment, they return  
 With glory and spoil back to their promis'd  
 land.

But first the lawless tyrant, who denies  
 To know their God, or message to regard,



Must be compell'd by sings and judgment  
dire: 175

To blood unshed the rivers must be turn'd;  
Frogs, lice, and flies, must all his palace fill  
With loath'd intrusion, and fill all the land:  
His cattle must of rot and murren die:

Botches and blains must all his flesh im-  
bols, 180

And all his people! thunder mix'd with hail,  
Hail mix'd with fire, must rend th' Egyptian  
sky,

And wheel on th' earth, devouring where it  
rolls,

What it devours not, herb, or fruit, or grain,  
A darksome cloud of locusts swarming  
down 185

Must eat, and on the ground leave nothing  
green:

Darkness must overshadow all his bounds,  
Palpable darkness! and blot out three days:  
Last, with one midnight stroke, all the first-  
born

Of Egypt must lie dead. Thus with ten  
wounds 190

The river dragon tam'd at length submits  
To let his sojourners depart; and oft  
Humbles his stubborn heart: but still as ice  
More harden'd after thaw: till in rage  
Pursuing whom he late dismiss'd, tho sea 195



Swallows him with his host; but them lets  
pass

As on dry land between two chrystal walls;  
Aw'd by the rod of Moses so to stand  
Divided, till his rescu'd gain their shore:  
Such wondrous pow'r God to his saint will  
lend, 200

Through present in his Angel, who shall go  
Before them in a cloud, and pillar of fire,  
By day a cloud, by night a pillar of fire;  
To guide them in their journey, and remove  
Behind them, while th' obdurate king pur-  
sues. 205

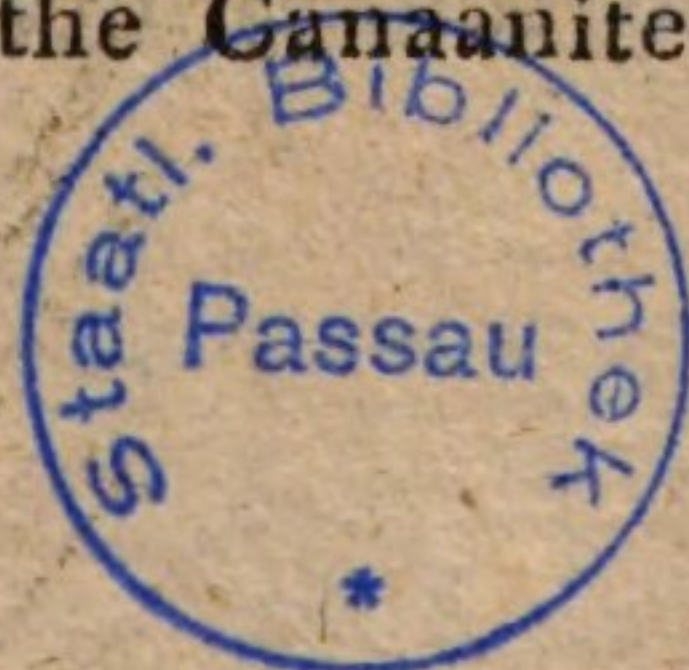
All night he will pursue, put his approach  
Darkness defends between till morning  
watch:

Then through the fiery pillar and the cloud  
God looking forth will trouble all his host,  
And craze their chariot-wheels: when by  
command 210

Moses once more his potent rod extends  
Over the sea, the sea his rod obeys:  
On their imbattled ranks the waves return,  
And overwhelm their war! The race elect,  
Safe towards Canaan from the shore ad-  
vance 215

Through the wild desert; not the readiest  
way,

Left entring on the Canaanite alarm'd





War terrify them inexpert, and fear  
Return them back to Aegypt, chusing rather  
Inglorious life with servitude: for life, 220  
To noble and ignoble is more sweet  
Untrain'd in arms, where rashness leads  
not on.

This also shall they gain by their delay  
In the wide wilderness: there they shall  
found

Their government, and their great senate  
choose 215

Thro' the twelve tribes, to rule by laws or-  
dain'd.

God from the mount of Sinai, whose gray top  
Shall tremble, he descending, will himself  
In thunder, lightning, and loud trumpets  
found

Ordain them laws: part such as appertain 230  
To civil justice: part religious rites  
Of sacrifice: informing them by types,  
And shadows, of that destin'd seed to bruise  
The serpent, by what means he shall achieve  
Mankind's deliverance. But the voice of  
God 235

To mortal ear is dreadful! They beseech,  
That Moses might report to them his will,  
And terror cease; He grants, what they be-  
sought

Instructed that to God is no access



Without mediator, whose high office now 240  
 Moses in figure bears, to introduce  
 One greater, of whose day he shall foretell,  
 And all the prophets in their age the times  
 Of Great Messiah shall sing. Thus laws and  
 rites

Establisht, such delight had God in men 245  
 Obedient to his will, that he vouchsafes,  
 Among them to set up his tabernacle:

The holy One with mortal men to dwell.

By his prescript a Sanctuary is fram'd  
 Of cedar, overlaid with gold, therein 250

An ark, and in the ark his testimony,  
 The records of his cov'nant; over these  
 A mercy-seat of gold between the wings  
 Of two bright Cherubim: before him burn  
 Seven lamps as in a zodiac, representing 255  
 The heav'nly fires: over the tent a cloud  
 Shall rest by day, a fiery glam by night,  
 Save when they journey: and a length they  
 come,

Conducted by his Angel to the land  
 Promis'd to Abraham and his seed — The  
 rest 260

Were long to tell, how many battles fought,  
 How many Kings destroy'd, and kingdoms  
 won,

Or how the Sun shall in mid Heav'n stand  
 still



A day entire, and night's due course adjourn,  
Man's voice commanding, „Sun in Gibeon  
stand, 265

„And thou moon in the vale of Ascalon,  
„Till Israel overcome;“ so call the third  
From Abraham, son of Isaac, from him  
His whole descent, who thus shall Canaan  
win.

Here Adam interpos'd, O sent from  
Heav'n, 270

Inlightner of my darkness! gracious things  
Thou hast reveal'd; those chiefly which con-  
cern

Just Abraham and his seed: now first I find  
Mine eyes true op'ning, and my heart much  
eas'd;

Ere while perplex'd with thoughts, what  
would become 275

Of me and all mankind: but now I see  
His day, in whom all nations shall be blest:  
Favor unmerited by me, who sought  
Forbidden knowledge forbidden means.  
This yet I apprehend not, why to those, 280  
Among whom God will deign to dwell on  
earth,

So many and so various laws are giv'n:  
So many laws argue so many sins  
Among them: how can God with such re-  
side?



To whom thus Michael. Doubt not but  
that sin 285

Will reign among them, as of thee begot:  
And therefore was law giv'n them, to evince  
Their natural pravity, by stirring up  
Sin against law to fight: that when they see  
Law can discover sin, but not remove, 290  
Save by those shadowy expiations weak,  
The blood of bulls and goats, they may con-  
clude

Some blood more precious must be paid for  
man;

Just for unjust: that in such righteousness  
To them by faith imputed, they may find 295  
Justification towards God, and peace  
Of conscience; which the law by ceremonies  
Cannot appease; nor man the moral part  
Perform: and not performing, cannot live.  
So law appears imperfect, and but giv'n 300  
With purpose to resign them in full time  
Up to a better cov'nant; disciplin'd  
From shadowy types to truth; from flesh to  
spirit,

From imposition of strict laws, to free  
Acceptance of large grace; from servil fear 305  
To filial: works of law, to works of faith.  
And therefore shall not Moses, though of  
God  
Highly belov'd, being but the minister



Of law, his people into Canaan lead;  
But Josua: whom the Gentiles Jesus call; 310  
His name and office bearing, who shall quell  
The adversary serpent; and bring back  
Throug the world's wilderness long wander'd  
man

Safe to eternal Paradise of rest,  
Mean while they, in their earthly Canaan  
plac'd, 315  
Long time shall dwell and prosper: but when  
sins

National interrupt their public peace,  
Provoking God to raise them enemies,  
From whom as oft he saves them penitent;  
By Judges first, then under Kings: of  
whom 320

The second, both for piety renown'd  
And puissant deeds, a promise shall receive  
Irrevocable, that this regal throne  
For ever shall indure: the like shall sing  
All prophecy, that of the royal stock 325  
Of David, so I name this king, shall rise  
A son, the woman's seed to thee foretold:  
Foretold to Abraham; as in whom shall trust  
All nations; and to kings foretold, of kings  
The last; for of his reign shall be no end. 330  
But first a long succession must ensue,  
And his next son, for wealth and wisdom  
fam'd,



The clouded Ark of God, till then in tents  
Wand'ring, shall in a glorious Temple in-  
shrine.

Such follow him as shall be register'd 335

Part good par bad; of bad the longer scroll:

Whose foul idolatries, and other faults

Heap'd to the popular sum, will so incense

God, as to leave them, and expose their land,

Their city, his temple, and his holy ark, 340

With all his sacred things, a scorn and prey

To that proud city, whose high walls thou  
saw'st

Left in confusion; Babylon thence call'd.

There in captivity he lets them dwell

The space of seventy years: then brings them  
back, 345

Remembring mercy, and his cov'nant sworn

To David, stablish'd as the days of heav'n.

Return'd from Babylon, by leave of kings

Their lords, whom God dispos'd, the House  
of God

They first re-edify: and for a while 350

In mean estate live moderate: till grown

In wealth and multitude, factious they grow;

But first, among the priests dissention springs;

Men who attend the altar, and should most

Endeavour peace: their strife pollution  
brings 355

Upon the Temple itself: at last they seize



The sceptre, and regard not David's sons:  
Then lose it to a stranger, that the true  
Anointed king Messiah might be born  
Barr'd of his right: yet at his birth a star 360  
Unseen before in heav'n proclaims him come,  
And guides the eastern Sages, who inquire  
His place, to offer incense, myrrh and gold:  
His place of birth a solemn Angel tells  
To simple shepherds keeping watch by  
night: 365

They gladly thither haste, and by a choir  
Of squadron'd Angels hear his carol sung.  
A Virgin is his mother, but his sire  
The pow'r of the most High! He shall ascend  
The throne hereditary, and bound his  
reign 370

With earth's wide bounds, his glory with the  
heav'ns.

He ceas'd, discerning Adam with such joy  
Surcharg'd, as had, like grief, been dew'd in  
tears,

Without the vent of words; which these he  
breath'd.

O prophet of glad tidings! finisher 375  
Of utmost hope! now clear I understand,  
What oft my steadiest thoughts have search'd  
in vain:

Why our great expectation should be call'd  
Thee feed of woman; Virgin Mother, hail!



High in the love of Heav'n! Yet from my  
loins 380

Thou shalt proceed, and from thy womb the  
Son

Of God most High; so God with Man unites.  
Needs must the serpent now his capital bruise  
Expect with mortal pain: say, where and  
when

Their fight, what stroke shall bruise the vic-  
tor's heel? 385

To whom thus Michael. Dream not of  
their fight,

As of a duel, or the local wounds  
Of head or heel; not therefore joins the Son  
Manhood to God-head, with more strength to  
foil

Thy enemy: nor so is overcome 390  
Satan, whose fall from Heav'n, a deadlier  
bruise!

Disabled not to give thee thy deaths wound:  
Which he, who comes thy Saviour, shall  
recure,

Not by destroying Satan, but his works,  
In thee and in thy seed. Nor can this be, 395  
But by fulfilling that, which thou didst  
want,

Obedience to the law of God, impos'd  
On penalty of death, and suffering death,  
The penalty to thy transgression due;



And due to theirs, which out of thine will  
grow: 400

So only can high Justice rest appaid.

The law of God exact he shall fulfill

Both by obedience and by love: though love  
Alone fulfill the law: thy punishment

He shall indure, by coming in the flesh 405

To a reproachfull life, and cursed death:

Proclaiming life to all, who shall believe

In his redemption; and that his obedience

Imputed, becomes theirs by faith; his merits

To save them, not their own, tho' legal  
works. 410

For this he shall live hated, be blasphem'd,  
Seiz'd on by force, judg'd, and to death con-  
demn'd,

A shameful and accurs'd nail'd to the cross

By his own nation; slain for bringing life.

But to the cross he nails thy enemies, 415

The law, that is against thee, and the sins

Of all mankind, with him there crucify'd,

Never to hurt them more who rightly trust

In this his satisfaction. So he dies,

But soon revives; death over him no  
pow'r 420

Shall long usurp: e're the third dawning  
light

Return, the stars of morn shall see him rise

Out of his grave, fresh as the dawning light,



The ransom paid, which man from death  
redeems,

His death for man, as many as offer'd  
life 425

Neglect not, and the benefit embrace  
By faith not void of works. This Gold-like  
act

Annuls thy doom, the death thou shouldst ha-  
ve dy'd,

In sin for ever lost from life: this act  
Shall bruise the head of Satan, crush his  
strength, 430

Defeating Sin and Death, his two main arms,  
And fix far deeper in his head their stings,  
Than temporal death shall bruise the victor's  
heel,

Or theirs whom he redeems: a death like  
sleep

A gentle wafting to immortal life, 435  
Nor after surrection shall he stay

Longer on earth than certain times, t' appear  
To his disciples; men, who in his life  
Still follow'd him: to them shall leave in  
charge

To teach all nations, what of him they  
learn'd 440

And his salvation; them who shall  
Baptizing in the profuent stream, the sign  
Of washing them from guilt of sin to life



Pure, and in mind prepar'd, if so befall,  
For death, like that which the Redeemer  
dy'd. 445

All nations they shall teach: for from that day,  
Not only to the sons of Abraham's loins  
Salvation shall be preach'd; but to the sons  
Of Abraham's faith wherever thro' the worl'd:  
So in his seed nations shall be blest. 450

Then to the heav'n of heav'ns shall he ascend  
With victory, triumphing through the air  
Over his foes and thine; there shall surprise  
The serpent, Prince of air, and drag in chains  
Thro' all his realm, and there confounded  
leave: 455

Then enter into glory, and resume  
His seat at God's right hand, exalted high  
Above all names in Heav'n: and thence shall  
come,

When this world's dissolution shall be ripe,  
With glory and pow'r to judge both quick and  
dead; 460

To judge th' unfaithful dead, but to reward  
His faithful, and receive them into blifs;  
Whether in heav'n or earth: for then the  
earth

Shall all be Paradise, far happier place  
Than this of Eden, and far happier days 465  
So spake th' Arch-Angel Michael, then  
paus'd,



As at the world's great period: and our fire,  
Replete with joy and wonder, thus reply'd.

O goodness infinite! goodness immense!  
That all this good of evil shall produce, 470  
And evil turn to good! more wonderfull  
Than that which by creation first brought forth  
Light out of darkness! Full of doubt I stand,  
Whether I should repent me now of sin  
By me done and occasion'd; or rejoice 475  
Much more, that much more good thereof  
shall spring

To God more glory, more good-will to men  
From God, and over wrath grace shall abound.  
But say, if our Deliverer up to Heav'n  
Must reascend, what will betide the few 480  
His faithful, left among th' unfaithful herd,  
The enemies of truth? Who then shall guide  
His people, who defend? will they not deal  
Worse with his followers, than with him they  
dealt?

Be sure, they will, said th' Angel; but from  
Heav'n 485

He to his own a Comforter will send,  
The promise of the Father: Who shall dwell  
His Spirit within them; and the law of faith  
Working thro' love, upon their hearts shall  
write,

To guide them in all truth; and also arm 490  
With spiritual armour, able to resist



Satan's assaults, and quench his fiery darts:  
What man can do against them, not afraid,  
Though to the death: against such cruelties  
With inward consolations recompens'd; 495

And oft supported so, as shall amaze  
Their proudest persecutors: for the Spirit  
Pour'd first on his Apostles, whom he sends  
To evangelize the Nations; then on all  
Baptiz'd, shall them with wondrous gifts  
indue 500

To speak all tongues, and do all miracles,  
As did their Lord before them. Thus they  
win

Great numbers of each nation, to receive  
With joy the tidings brought from Heav'n: at  
length

Their Ministry perform'd, and race well  
run, 505

Their doctrine and their story written left,  
They die. But their room, as they fore-  
warn,

Wolves shall succeed for teachers, grievous  
wolves!

Who all the sacred mysteries of Heav'n,  
To their own vile advantages shall turn, 510

Of lucre and ambition; and the truth

With superstitions and traditions taint,

Left only in those written records pure,

Though not but by the Spirit understood,

Then



Then shall they seek t' avail themselves of  
names, 515

Places and titles; and with these to join  
Secular pow'r, though feigning still to act  
By spiritual, to themselves appropriating  
The Spirit of God, promis'd alike and giv'n  
To all believers: and from that pretence 520  
Spiritual laws by carnal pow'r shall force  
On every conscience; laws which none shall  
find

Left them inroll'd; or what the Spirit within  
Shall on the heart engrave. What will they  
then

But force the Spirit of grace itself, and bind 525  
His consort liberty? what, but unbuild  
His living temples, built by faith to stand,  
Their own faith, not another's? for on earth  
Who against faith and conscience can be heard  
Infallible? Yet many will presume; 530  
Whence heavy persecution shall arise  
On all, who in the worship persevere  
Of spirit and truth: the rest, far greater part,  
Will deem in outward rites and specious forms  
Religion satisfy'd: truth shall retire 535  
Bestuck with slanderous darts: and works of  
faith

Rarely be found. So shall the world go on,  
To good malignant, to bad men benign;  
Under her own weight groaning; till the day



Appear of respiration to the just, 540  
And vengeance to the wicked: at return  
Of Him so lately promis'd to thy aid,  
The Woman's Seed; obscurely then foretold,  
Now amplier known thy Saviour, and thy  
Lord;  
Last in the clouds from Heav'n to be re-  
veal'd 545  
In glory of the Father, dissolve  
Satan with his perverted world; then raise  
From the conflagrant mass, purg'd and refin'd,  
New Heav'ns, new Earth, ages of endless  
date.  
Founded in righteousness, and peace, and  
love, 550  
To bring forth fruits, joy, and eternal blifs,  
He ended, and thus Adam last reply'd.  
How soon hath thy prediction, Seer blest!  
Measur'd this transient world, the race of time,  
Till time stand fix'd? Beyond is all abyfs, 555  
Eternity, whose end no eye can reach!  
Greatly instructed I shall hence depart,  
Greatly in peace of thought, and have my fill  
Of knowledge, what this vessel can contain,  
Beyond which was my folly to aspire 560  
Henceforth I learn, that to obey is best,  
And love with fear the only God; to walk  
As in his presence, ever to observe  
His providence, and on him sole depend,



Merciful over all his works, with good . 565  
Still overcoming evil; and by small  
Accomplishing great things: by things deem'd  
weak

Subverting worldly strong, and worldly wise  
By simpling meek: that suffering for truth's  
sake

Is fortitude to highest victory, 570  
And to the faithful Death the gate of Life:  
Taught this by his example, whom I now  
Acknowledge my Redeemer ever blest.

To whom thus also th' Angel last reply'd:  
This having learn'd, thou hast attain'd the  
sum 575  
Of wisdom; hope no higher, though all the  
stars

Thou knew'st by name, and all th' ethereal  
powr's,  
All secrets of the deep, all nature's works,  
Or works of God in Heav'n, air, earth, or  
sea,

And all the riches of this world enjoy'dst, 580  
And all the rule, one empire: only add  
Deeds to thy knowledge answerable; add  
faith,

Add virtue, patience, temperance add love,  
By name to come call'd Charity, the soul  
Of all the rest, then wilt thou not be loath, 585  
To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess







Which he hath sent propitious, some great good  
 Presaging, since with sorrow and heart's di-  
 stress

Wearied I fell asleep: but now lead on!  
 In me is no delay; with thee to go, 615  
 Is to stay here; without thee here to stay,  
 Is to go hence unwilling: thou to me  
 Art all things under Heav'n, all places thou,  
 Who for my wilful crime art banish'd hence.  
 This further consolation yet secure 620  
 I carry hence; though all by me is lost,  
 Such favor I unworthy am vouchsaf'd,  
 By me the promis'd seed shall all restore.

So spake our mother Eve; and Adam heard  
 Well pleas'd, but answer'd not: for now too  
 nigh 625

Th' Arch-Angel stood; and from the other hill  
 To their fix'd station, all in bright array  
 The Cherubim descended; on the ground  
 Gliding meteorous, as ev'ning mist  
 Ris'n from a river, o'er the marsh glides; 630  
 And gathers ground fast at the lab'rer's heel  
 Homeward returning. High in front advanc'd  
 The brandish'd sword of God before them  
 blaz'd;

Fierce as a comet; which with torrid heat,  
 And vapors as the Libyan air adust, 635  
 Began to parch that temperate clime: whereat  
 In either hand the hast'ning Angel caught



Our ling'ring parents, and to th' eastern gate  
Led them direct; and down the cliff as fast  
To the subjected plain; then disappear'd. 640  
They looking back, all th' eastern side beheld  
Of Paradise, so late their happy seat!

Wav'd over by that flaming brand; the gate  
With dreadful faces throng'd and fiery arms.  
Some natural tears they drops, but wip'd them  
soon; 645

The world was all before them, where to  
chuse

Their place of rest, and Providence their  
guide.

They, hand in hand, with wand'ring steps  
and slow,

Through Eden took their solitary way.

*The End.*

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• PARADISE REGAIN'D

A P O E M

I N F O U R B O O K S

WRITTEN BY

J O H N M I L T O N.

---



REVISED EDITION

OF THE

IN FOUR BOOKS

BY THE AUTHOR

JOHN MILLER



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# PARADISE REGAIN'D.

## B O O K I.

I who ere while the happy garden sung,  
By one man's disobedience lost, now sing  
Recover'd Paradise to all mankind,  
By one man's firm obedience fully try'd  
Through all temptation, and the tempter  
foil'd 5

In all his wiles, defeated and repuls'd,  
And Eden rais'd in the waste wilderness.

Thou Spi'rit who ledst this glorious eremite  
Into the desert, his victorious field,  
Against the spiritual foe, and brought'st him  
thence 10

By proof th' undoubted Son of God, inspire,  
As thou art wont, my prompted song else  
mute,



And bear through highth or depth of nature's  
bounds

With prosp'rous wing full summ'd, to tell of  
deeds

Above heroic, though in secret done, 15

And unrecorded left through many an age,

Worthy t' have not remain'd so long unsung.

Now had the great Proclamer, with a voice

More awful than the sound of trumpet, cry'd

Repentance, and Heav'n's kingdom nigh at  
hand 20

To all baptiz'd: to his great baptism flock'd

With awe the regions round, and with them

From Nazareth the son of Joseph deem'd

To the flood Jordan, came as then obscure,

Unmark'd, unknown; but him the Baptist  
soon 25

Descry'd, divinely warn'd, and witness bore

As to his worthier, and would have resign'd

To him his heav'nly office, nor was long

His witness unconfirm'd; on him baptiz'd

Heav'n open'd, and in likeness of a dove 30

The Spi'rit descended, while the Father's  
voice

From Heav'n pronounc'd him his beloved Son.

That heard the Adversary, who roving still

About the world, at that assembly fam'd

Would not be last, and with the voice

divine 35



Nigh thunder-struck, th' exalted man, to  
whom

Such high attest was giv'n, a while sur-  
vey'd

With wonder, then with envy fraught and  
rage

Flies to his place, nor rests, but in mid air  
To council summons all his mighty peers, 40  
Within thick clouds and dark ten-fold in-  
volv'd

A gloomy consistory; and them amidst  
With looks aghast and sad he thus bespake.

O ancient Pow'rs of air and this wide  
world,

For much more willingly I mention air, 45

This our old conquest, than remember Hell,

Our hated habitation; well ye know

How many ages, as the years of men,

This universe we have possess'd, and rul'd

In manner at our will th' affairs of earth, 50

Since Adam and his facil consort Eve

Lost Paradise deceiv'd by me, though since

With dread attending when that fatal wound

Shall be inflicted by the seed of Eve

Upon my head: long the decrees of Heav'n 55

Delay, for longest time to him is short;

And now too soon for us the circling hours

This dreaded time have compass'd, wherein

we



Must bide the stroke of that long threaten'd  
wound,

At least if so we can, and by the head 60

Broken be not intended all our power

To be infring'd, our freedom and our being,

In this fair empire won of earth and air;

For this ill news I bring, the woman's seed

Destin'd to this, is late of woman born: 65

His birth to our just fear gave no small cause,

But his growth now to youth's full flow'r, dis-  
playing

All virtue, grace, and wisdom to achieve

Things highest, greatest, multiplies my fear.

Before him a great prophet, to proclame 70

His coming, is sent harbinger, who all

Invites, and in the consecrated stream

Pretends to wash off sin, and fit them so

Purified to receive him pure, or rather

To do him honor as their king; all come, 75

And he himself among them was baptiz'd,

Not thence to be more pure, but to receive

The testimony' of Heav'n, that who he is

Thenceforth the nations may not doubt; I  
saw

The prophet do him reverence, on him ri-  
sing 80

Out of the water, Heav'n above the clouds

Unfold her crystal doors, thence on his head

A perfect dove descend, whate'er it meant,







For long indulgence to their fears or grief: 110  
 Unanimous they all commit the care  
 And management of this main enterprize  
 To him their great dictator, whose attempt  
 At first against mankind so well had thriv'd  
 In Adam's overthrow, and led their march 115  
 From Hell's deep-vaulted den to dwell in light,  
 Regents and potentates, and kings, yea Gods  
 Of many a pleasant realm and province wide.  
 So to the coast of Jordan he directs  
 His easy steps, girded with snaky wiles, 120  
 Where he might likeliest find this new-de-  
 clar'd,

This man of men, attested Son of God,  
 Temptation and all guile on him to try;  
 So to subvert whom he suspected rais'd  
 To end his reign on earth so long enjoy'd: 125  
 But contrary unweeting he fulfill'd  
 The purpos'd counsel pre-ordain'd and fix'd  
 Of the most High, who in full frequency bright  
 Of Angels, thus to Gabriel smiling spake.

Gabriel, this day by proof thou shalt be-  
 hold, 130

Thou and all Angels conversant on earth  
 With man or mens affairs, how I begin  
 To verify that solemn message late,  
 On which I sent thee to Virgin pure  
 In Galilee, that she should bear a son 135  
 Great in renown, and call'd the Son of God;



Then toldst her doubting how these things  
could be

To her a virgin, that on her should come  
The Holy Ghost, and the pow'r of the Highest  
O'er-shadow her: this man born and now up-  
grown, 140

To show him worthy of his birth divine  
And high prediction, henceforth I expose  
To Satan; let him tempt and now assay  
His utmost subtlety, because he boasts  
And vaunts of his great cunning to the  
throng 145

Of his apostasy; he might have learnt  
Less overweening, since he fail'd in Job,  
Whose constant perseverance overcame  
Whate'er his cruel malice could invent.

He now shall know I can produce a man 150  
Of female seed, far abler to resist  
All his solicitations, and at length  
All his vast force, and drive him back to Hell,  
Winning by conquest what the first man lost  
By fallacy surpris'd. But first I mean 155

To exercise him in the wilderness,  
There he shall first lay down the rudiments  
Of his great warfare, ere I send him forth  
To conquer Sin and Death, the two grand foes,  
By humiliation and strong sufferance: 160  
His weakness shall o'ercome Satanic strength,  
And all the world, and mass of sinful flesh;



That all the Angels and ethereal Powers,  
 They now, and men hereafter may discern,  
 From what consummate virtue I have chose 165  
 This perfect man, by merit call'd my Son,  
 To earn salvation for the sons of men.

So spake th' eternal Father, and all Heaven  
 Admiring stood a space, then into hymns  
 Burst forth, and in celestial measures mov'd, 170  
 Circling the throne and singing, while the  
 hand

Sung with the voice, and this the argument.

Victory' and triumph to the Son of God  
 Now entring his great duel, not of arms,  
 But to vanquish by wisdom hellish wiles. 175  
 The Father knows the Son; therefore secure  
 Ventures his filial virtue, though untry'd,  
 Against whate'er may tempt, whate'er seduce,  
 Allure, or terrify, or undermine.

Be frustrate all ye stratagems of Hell, 180  
 And devilish machinations come to nought.

So they in Heav'n their odes and vigils tun'd:  
 Mean while the Son of God, who yet some  
 days

Lodg'd in Bethabara, where John baptiz'd, 185  
 How best the mighty work he might begin  
 Of Saviour to mankind, and which way first  
 Publish his God-like office now mature,  
 One day forth walk'd alone, the Spirit lea-  
 ding,

And



And his deep thoughts, the better to con-  
verse 190

With solitude, till far from track of men,  
Thought following thought, and step by step  
led on,

He enter'd now the bord'ring desert wild,  
And with dark shades and rocks environ'd  
round,

His holy meditations thus pursu'd. 195

O what a multitude of thoughts at once  
Awaken'd in me swarm, while I consider  
What from within I feel myself, and hear  
What from without comes often to my ears,  
Ill sorting with my present state com-  
par'd! 200

When I was yet a child, no childish play  
To me was pleasing; all my mind was set  
Serious to learn and know, and thence to do  
What might be public good; myself I thought  
Born to that end, born to promote all truth, 205  
All righteous things: therefore above my  
years,

The law of God I read, and found it sweet,  
Made it my whole delight, and in it grew  
To such perfection, that ere yet my age  
Had measur'd twice six years, at our great  
feast 210

I went into the temple, there to hear  
The teachers of our law, and to propose



What might improve my knowledge or their  
own;

And was admir'd by all: yet this not all  
To which my spi'rit aspir'd; victorious  
deeds 215

Flam'd in my heart, heroic acts, one while  
To rescue Israel from the Roman yoke,  
Then to subdue and quell o'er all the earth  
Brute violence and proud tyrannic power,  
Till truth were freed, and equity restor'd: 220  
Yet held it more humane, more heav'nly first  
By winning words to conquer willing hearts,  
And make persuasion do the work of fear;  
At least to try, and teach the erring soul  
Not wilfully mis-doing, but unaware 225  
Mised; the stubborn only to subdue.

These growing thoughts my mother soon per-  
ceiving

By words at times cast forth inly rejoic'd,  
And said to me apart, High are thy thoughts,  
O Son, but nourish them and let them  
soar 230

To what high sacred virtue and true worth  
Can raise them, though above example high;  
By matchless deeds express by matchless Sire.  
For know, thou art no son of mortal man;  
Though men esteem thee low of paren-  
tage, 235

Thy father is th' eternal King, who rules



All Heav'n and Earth, Angels and Sons of  
men;

A messenger from God foretold thy birth  
Conceiv'd in me a virgin, he foretold  
Thou should'st be great, and sit on David's  
throne, 240

And of thy kingdom there should be no  
end.

At thy nativity a glorious quire  
Of Angels in the fields of Bethlehem sung  
To shepherds watching at their folds by night,  
And told them, the Messiah now was born, 245  
Where they might see him, and to thee they  
came,

Directed to the manger where thou lay'st,  
For in the inn was left no better room:  
A star, not seen before, in Heav'n appearing  
Guided the wise men thither from the east, 250  
To honor thee with incense, myrrh, and gold,  
By whose bright course led on they found  
the place,

Affirming it thy star new grav'n in Heaven,  
By which they knew the king of Israel born.  
Just Simeon and prophetic Anna, warn'd 255  
By vision, found thee in the temple', and  
spoke

Before the altar and the vested priest,  
Like things of thee to all that present stood.  
This having heard, strait I again resolv'd



The law and prophets, searching what was  
writ 260

Concerning the Messiah, to our scribes  
Known partly, and soon found, of whom they  
spake

I am; this chiefly, that my way must lie  
Through many a hard assay ev'n to the death,  
Ere I the promis'd kingdom can attain, 265  
Or work redemption for mankind, whose sins  
Full weight must be transferr'd upon my head.  
Yet neither thus dishearten'd or dismay'd,  
The time prefix'd I waited, when behold  
The Baptist (of whose birth I oft had heard, 270  
Not knew by sight) now come, who was  
to come

Before Messiah and his way prepare.  
I as all others to his baptism came,  
Which I believ'd was from above; but he  
Strait knew me, and with loudest voice pro-  
clam'd 275

Me him (for it was shown him so from  
Heaven)

Me him whose harbinger he was; and first  
Refus'd on me his baptism to confer,  
As much his greater, and was hardly won:  
But as I rose out of the laving stream, 280  
Heav'n open'd her eternal doors, from whence  
The Spi'rit descended on me like a dove,  
And last the sum of all, my Father's voice,



Audibly heard from Heav'n, pronounc'd me  
his,

Me his beloved Son, in whom alone 285  
He was well pleas'd; by which I knew the  
time

Now full, that I no more should live obscure,  
But openly begin, as best becomes

Th' authority, which I deriv'd from Heaven.

And now by some strong motion I am led 290  
Into this wilderness, to what intent

I learn not yet, perhaps I need not know;

For what concerns my knowledge God reveals.

So spake our Morning Star then in his rise,  
And looking round on every side beheld 295

A pathless desert, dusk with horrid shades;

The way he came not having mark'd, return

Was difficult, by human steps untrod;

And he still on was led, but with such  
thoughts

Accompanied of things past and to come 300

Lodg'd in his breast, as well might recom-  
mend

Such solitude before choicest society.

Full forty days he pass'd, whether on hill

Sometimes, anon in shady vale, each night

Under the covert of some ancient oak, 305

Or cedar, to defend him from the dew,

Or harbour'd in one cave, is not reveal'd;

Nor tasted human food, nor hunger felt



Till those days ended, hunger'd then at last  
Among wild beasts: they at his sight grew  
mild, 310  
Nor sleeping him nor waking harm'd, his  
walk

The fiery serpent fled, and noxious worm,  
The lion and fierce tiger glar'd aloof.  
But now an aged man in rural weeds,  
Following, as seem'd, the quest of some stray  
ewe, 315  
Or wither'd sticks to gather, which might  
serve

Against a winter's day, when winds blow keen,  
To warn him wet return'd from field at eve,  
He saw approach, who first with curious eye  
Perus'd him, then with words thus utter'd  
spake. 320

Sir, what ill chance hath brought thee to  
this place

So far from path or road of men, who pass  
In troop or caravan? for single none  
Durst ever, who return'd, and dropt not here  
His carcass, pin'd with hunger and with  
drouth. 325

I ask the rather, and the more admire,  
For that to me thou seem'st the man, whom  
late

Our new baptizing Prophet at the ford  
Of Jordan honor'd so, and call'd thee Son



Book I. PARADISE REGAIN'D. 135

Of God; I saw and heard, for we sometimes 330

Who dwell this wild, constrain'd want, come forth

To town or village nigh (nighest is far)

Where ought we hear, and curious are to hear,

What happens new; fame also finds us out.

To whom the Son of God. Who brought me hither, 335

Will bring me hence; no other guide I seek.

By miracle he may, reply'd the swain,

What other way I see not, for we here

Live on tough roots and stubs, to thirst inur'd

More than the camel, and to drink go far, 340

Men to much misery and hardship born;

But if thou be the Son of God, command

That out of these hard stones be made thee bread,

So shalt thou save thyself and us relieve

With food, whereof we wretched seldom taste. 345

He ended, and the Son of God reply'd.

Think'st thou such force in bread? is it not written

(For I discern thee other than thou seem'st)

Man lives not by bread only, but each word

Proceeding from the mouth of God, who fed 350



Our fathers here with Manna? in the mount  
 Moses was forty days, nor eat nor drank;  
 And forty days Elijah without food  
 Wander'd this barren waste; the same I now:  
 Why dost thou then suggest to me distrust, 355  
 Knowing who I am, as I know who thou art?

Whom thus answer'd th' Arch-Fiend now  
 undisguis'd.

This true, I am that Spirit unfortunate,  
 Who leagu'd with millions more in rash revolt  
 Kept not my happy station, but was dri-  
 ven 360

With them from bliss to the bottomless deep,  
 Yet to that hideous place not so confin'd  
 By rigor unconniving, but that oft  
 Leaving my dolorous prison I enjoy  
 Large liberty to round this globe of earth, 365  
 Or range in th' air, nor from the Heav'n of  
 Heav'ns

Hath he excluded my resort sometimes.  
 I came among the sons of God, when he  
 Gave up into my hands Uzzean Job  
 To prove him, and illustrate his high worth; 370  
 And when to all his Angels he propos'd  
 To draw the proud king Ahab into fraud,  
 That he might fall in Ramoth they demurring,  
 I undertook that office, and the tongues  
 Of all his flattering prophets glibb'd with  
 lies 375



To his destruction, as I had in charge,  
 For what he bids I do: though I have lost  
 Much lustre of my native brightness, lost  
 To be belov'd of God, I have not lost  
 To love, at least contemplate and admire 380  
 What I see excellent in good, or fair,  
 Or virtuous, I should so have lost all sense.  
 What can be then less in me than desire  
 To see thee and approach thee, whom I know  
 Declar'd the Son of God, to hear attent 385  
 Thy wisdom, and behold thy Godlike deeds?  
 Men generally think me much a foe  
 To all mankind: why should I? they to me  
 Never did wrong or violence; by them  
 I lost not what I lost, rather by them 390  
 I gain'd what I have gain'd, and with them  
 dwell

Copartner in these regions of the world,  
 If not disposer; lend them oft my aid,  
 Oft my advice by presages and signs,  
 And answers, oracles, portents and dreams, 395  
 Whereby they may direct their future life.  
 Envy they say excites me, thus to gain  
 Companions of my misery and woe.  
 At first it may be; but long since with woe  
 Nearer acquainted, now I feel by proof, 400  
 That fellowship in pain divides not smart,  
 Nor lightens ought each man's peculiar load.  
 Small consolation then, were man adjoin'd:



This wounds me most (what can it less?) that  
man,

Man fall'n shall be restor'd, I never more. 405

To whom our Saviour sternly thus reply'd.  
Deservedly thou griev'st, compos'd of lies  
From the beginning, and in lies wilt end;  
Who boast'st release from Hell, and leave to  
come

Into the Heav'n of Heav'ns: thou com'st in-  
deed, 410

As a poor miserable captive thrall  
Comes to the place, where he before had sat  
Among the prime in splendor, now depos'd,  
Ejected, emptied, gaz'd, unpitied, shunn'd,  
A spectacle of ruin or of scorn 415

To all the host of Heav'n: the happy place  
Imparts to thee no happiness, no joy,  
Rather inflames thy torment, representing  
Lost bliss, to thee no more communicable,  
So never more in Hell, than when in Hea-  
ven. 420

But thou art serviceable to Heav'n's King.  
Wilt thou impute to' obedience, what thy fear  
Extorts, or pleasure to do ill excites?  
What but thy malice mov'd thee to misdeem  
Of righteous Job, then cruelly to afflict  
him 425

With all inflictions? but his patience won.  
The other service was thy chosen task,



To be a liar in four hundred mouths;  
 For lying is thy sustenance, thy food.  
 Tet thou pretend'st to truth; all oracles 430  
 By thee are giv'n, and what confels'd more  
 true

Among the nations? that hath been thy craft,  
 By mixing somewhat true to vent more lies.  
 But what have been thy answers, what but  
 dark,

Ambiguous and with double sense delu-  
 ding, 435

Which they who ask'd have seldom under-  
 stood,

And not well understood as good not known?  
 Who ever by consulting at thy shrine  
 Return'd the wiser, or the more instruct  
 To fly or follow what concern'd him most, 440  
 And run not sooner to his fatal snare!

For God hath justly giv'n the nations up  
 To thy delusions; justly, since they fell  
 Idolatrous: but when his purpose is  
 Among them to declare his providence 445  
 To thee not known, whence hast thou then  
 thy truth,

But from him or his Angels president  
 In every province? who themselves disdain-  
 ing

T' approach thy temples, give thee in com-  
 mand



What to the smallest tittle thou shalt say 450  
 To thy adorers; thou with trembling fear,  
 Or like a fawning parasite obey'st;  
 Then to thyself ascrib'st the truth foretold.  
 But this thy glory shall be soon retrench'd;  
 No more shalt thou by oracling abuse 455  
 The Gentiles; henceforth oracles are ceas'd,  
 And thou no more with pomp and sacrifice  
 Shalt be inquir'd at Delphos elsewhere,  
 At least in vain, for they shall find thee  
 mute.

God hath now sent his living oracle 460  
 Into the world, to teach his final will,  
 And sends his Spi'rit of truth henceforth to  
 dwell

In pious hearts, an inward oracle  
 To all truth requisite for men to know.

So spake our Saviour; but the subtle  
 Fiend, 465

Though inly stung with anger and disdain,  
 Dissembled, and this answer smooth return'd.

Sharply thou hast insisted on rebuke,  
 And urg'd me hard with doings, which not  
 will

But misery hath wrested from me: where 470  
 Easily canst thou find one miserable,  
 And not enforc'd oft-times to part from  
 truth;

If it may stand him more in stead to lie,



Say and unsay, feign, flatter, or abjure?  
 But thou art plac'd above me, thou art  
 Lord; 475

From thee I can and must submit indure  
 Check or reproof, and glad to 'scape so  
 quit.

Hard are the ways of truth, and rough to  
 walk,

Smooth on the tongue discours'd, pleasing to  
 th' ear,

And tuneable as sylvan pipe or song; 480

What wonder, then if I delight to hear

Her dictates from thy mouth? most men ad-  
 mire

Virtue, who follow not her lore: permit me  
 To hear thee when I come (since no man comes)  
 And talk at least, though I despair to' at-  
 tain. 485

Thy Father, who is holy, wise and pure,  
 Suffers the hypocrite or atheous priest  
 To tread his sacred courts, and minister  
 About his altar, handling holy things,  
 Praying or vowing, and vouchsaf'd his  
 voice 490

To Balaam reprobate, a prophet yet  
 Inspir'd; disdain not such access to me.

To whom our Saviour with unalter'd brow.  
 Thy coming hither, though I know thy scope,  
 I bid not or forbid; do as thou find'st 495



Permission from above; thou canst not more.

He added not; and Satan bowing low  
His gray dissimulation, disappear'd  
Into thin air diffus'd: for now began  
Night with her sullen wings to double-sha-  
de 500

The desert; fowls in their clay nests were  
couch'd;

And now wild beasts came forth the woods to  
roam.

*The End of the First Book.*

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*B O O K II.*

**M**ean while the new-baptiz'd, who yet remain'd

At Jordan with the Baptist, and had seen  
Him, whom they heard so late expressly call'd  
Jesus Messiah Son of God declar'd,  
And on that high authority had believ'd, 5  
And with him talk'd, and with him lodg'd, I  
mean

Andrew and Simon, famous after known,  
With others though in holy writ not nam'd,  
Now missing him their joy so lately found,  
So lately found, and so abruptly gone, 10  
Began to doubt, and doubted many days,  
And as the days increas'd, increas'd their  
doubt:

Sometimes they thought, he might be only  
shown,

And for a time caught up to God, as once  
Moses was in the mount, and missing long; 15



And the great Thilbite, who on fiery wheels  
Rode up to Heav'n, yet once again to come.  
Therefore as those young prophets then with  
care

Sought lost Elijah, so in each place these  
Nigh to Bethabara; in Jericho 20

The city' of palms, Aenon, and Salem old,  
Machaerus, and each town or city wall'd  
On this side the broad lake Genezaret,  
Or in Peraea; but return'd in vain.

Then on the bank of Jordan, by a creek, 25  
Where winds with reeds and osiers whisp'ring  
play,

Plain fishermen, no greater men them call,  
Close in cottage low together got,  
Their unexpected loss and plaints out breath'd.

Alas, from what high hope to what re-  
lapse

Unlook'd for are we fall'n ! our eyes beheld  
Messiah certainly now come, so long  
Expected of our fathers ; we have heard  
His words, his wisdom full of grace and  
truth ;

Now, now, for sure, deliverance is at  
hand, 35

The kingdom shall to Israel be restor'd:  
Thus we rejoic'd, but soon our joy is turn'd  
Into perplexity and new amaze:  
For whither is he gone, what accident

Hath



Hath rapt him from us? will he now re-  
tire 40

After appearance, and again prolong  
Our expectation; God of Israël,  
Send thy Messiah forth, the time is come;  
Behold the kings of th' earth, how they op-  
press

Thy chosen, to what highth their pow'r un-  
just 45

They have exalted, and behind them cast  
All fear of thee; arise and vindicate  
Thy glory; free thy people from their yoke.  
But let us wait; thus far he hath perform'd,  
Sent his Anointed, and to us reveal'd him, 50  
By his great Prophet, pointed at and shown  
In public, and with him we have convers'd;  
Let us be glad of this, and all our fears  
Lay on his providence; he will not fail,  
Nor will withdraw him now, nor will re-  
call, 55

Mock us with his blest sight, then snatch him  
hence;

Soon we shall see our hope, our joy return.

Thus they out of their complaints new hope re-  
sume,

To find whom at the first they found unsought:  
But to his mother Mary, when she saw 60  
Others return'd from baptism, not her son,  
Nor left at Jordan, tidings of him none,



Within her breast though calm, her breast  
                                           though pure,  
 Motherly cares and fears got head, and rais'd  
 Some troubled thoughts, which she in sighs  
                                           thus clad. 65

O what avails me now that honor high  
 To have conceiv'd of God, or that salute  
 Hail highly favor'd, among women blest!  
 While I to sorrows am no less advenc'd,  
 And fears as eminent, above the lot 70  
 Of other woman, by the birth I bore,  
 In such a season born, when scarce a shed  
 Could be obtain'd to shelter him or me  
 From the bleak air; a stable was our warmth,  
 A manger his; yet soon enforc'd to fly 75  
 Thence into Egypt, till the murd'rous king  
 Were dead, who sought his life, and missing  
                                           fill'd

With infant blood the streets of Bethlehem;  
 From Egypt home return'd, in Nazareth  
 Hath been our dwelling many years; his  
                                           life 80

Private, unactive, calm, contemplative,  
 Little suspicious to any king; but now  
 Full grown to man, acknowledg'd, as I hear,  
 By John the Baptist, and in public shown,  
 Son own'd from Heaven by his Father's  
                                           voice; 85  
 I look'd for some great change; to honor? no,



But trouble, as old Simeon plain foretold,  
 That to the fall and rising he should be  
 Of many in Israël, and to a sign  
 Spoken against, that through my very soul 90  
 A sword shall pierce; this is my favor'd lot,  
 My exaltation to afflictions high;  
 Afflicted I may be, it seems, and blest;  
 I will not argue that, nor will repine.

But where delays he now? some great in-  
 tent 95

Conceals him: when twelve years he scarce  
 had seen,

I lost him, but so found, as well I saw  
 He could not lose himself; but went about  
 His Father's business; what he meant I mus'd,  
 Since understand; much more his absence  
 now 100

Thus long to some great purpose he obscures.  
 But I to wait with patience am inur'd;  
 My heart hath been a store-house long of  
 things

And say'ings laid up, portending strange events.

Thus Mary pond'ring oft, and oft to  
 mind 105

Recalling, what remarkably had pass'd  
 Since first her salutation heard, with thoughts  
 Meekly compos'd awaited the fulfilling:  
 The while her son tracing the desert wild,  
 Sole but with holiest meditations fed, 110



Into himself descended, and at once  
 All his great work to come before him set;  
 How to begin, how to accomplish best  
 His end of being on earth, and mission high:  
 For Satan with sly preface to return      115  
 Had left him vacant, and with speed was gone  
 Up to the middle region of thick air,  
 Where all his potentates in council sat;  
 There without sign of boast, or sign of joy,  
 Solicitous and blank he thus began.      120

Princes, Heav'n's ancient Sons, ethereal  
                                          Thrones,  
 Demonian Spirits now, from th' element  
 Each of his reign allotted, rightlier call'd  
 Pow'rs of fire, air, water, and earth beneath,  
 So may we hold our place and these mild  
                                          seats      125

Without new trouble; such an enemy  
 Is risen to invade us, who no less  
 Threatens than our expulsion down to Hell;  
 I, as I undertook, and with the vote  
 Consenting in full frequency was impo-  
                                          wer'd,      130  
 Have found him, view'd him, tasted him,  
                                          but find

Far other labor to be undergone  
 Than when I dealt with Adam first of Men,  
 Though Adam by his wife's allurements fell,  
 However to this man inferior far,      135



Book II. PARADISE REGAIN'D. 149

If he be man by mother's side at least,  
With more than human gifts from Heav'n  
adorn'd,

Perfections absolute, graces divine,  
And amplitude of mind to greatest deeds.

Therefore I am return'd, lest confidence 140

Of my success with Eve in Paradise

Deceive ye to persuasion over-sure

Of like succeeding here; I summon all

Rather to be in readiness, with hand

Or counsel to assist; lest I who erst 145

Thought none my equal, now be over-match'd.

So spake th' old Serpent doubting, and  
from all

With clamor was assur'd their utmost aid

At his command; when from amidst them rose

Belial, the dissoluteſt Spi'rit that fell, 150

The sensuallest, and After Asmodai

The fleshliest Incubus, and thus advis'd.

Set women in his eye, and in his walk,

Among daughters of men the fairest found;

Many are in each region passing fair 155

As the noon sky; more like to Goddesses

Than mortal creatures, graceful and discreet,

Expert in amorous arts, -enchanting tongues

Persuasive, virgin majesty with mild

And sweet allay'd, yet terrible t' approach, 160

Skill'd to retire, and in retiring draw

Hearts after them tangled in amorous nets.



Such object hath the pow'r to soft'n and tame  
 Severest temper, smooth the rugged'st brow,  
 Enerve, and with voluptuous hope dis-  
 solve, 165

Draw out with credulous desire, and lead  
 At will the manliest, resolute'st breast,  
 As the magnetic hardest iron draws.

Women, when nothing else, beguil'd the heart  
 Of wisest Solomon, and made him build, 170  
 And made him bow to the Gods of his wives.

To whom quick answer Satan thus return'd.  
 Belial, in much uneven scale thou weigh'st  
 All others by thyself; because of old  
 Thou thyself doat'dst on womankind, admi-  
 ring 175

Their shape, their color, and attractive grace,  
 None are, thou think'st, but taken with such  
 toys.

Before the flood thou with thy lusty crew,  
 False titled sons of God, roaming the earth  
 Cast wanton eyes on the daughters of men, 180  
 And coupled with them, and begot a race.  
 Have we not seen, or by relation heard,  
 In courts and regal chambers, how thou lurk'st,  
 In wood or grove by mossy fountain side,  
 In valley or green meadow, to way lay 185  
 Some beauty rare, Calisto, Clymene,  
 Daphne, or Semele, Antiopa,  
 Or Amymone, Syrinx, many more



Too long, then lay'st thy scapes on names  
ador'd,

Apollo, Neptune, Jupiter, or Pan, 190  
Satir, or Faun, or Sylvan? But these haunts  
Delight not all; among the sons of men,  
How many have with a smile made small  
account

Of beauty and her lures, easily scorn'd  
All her assaults, on worthier things intent? 195  
Remember that Pellean conqueror,  
A youth, how all the beauties of the east  
He slightly view'd, and slightly overpass'd;  
How he firnam'd of Africa dismiss'd  
In his prime youth the fair Iberian maid, 200  
For Solomon, he liv'd at ease, and full  
Of honor, wealth, high fare, aim'd not  
beyond

Higher design than to enjoy his state;  
Thence to the bait of women lay expos'd;  
But he whom we attempt, is wiser far 205  
Than Solomon, of more exalted mind,  
Made and set wholly on th' accomplishment  
Of greatest things; what woman will you find,  
Though of this age the wonder and the fame,  
On whom his leisure will vouchsafe an eye 210  
Of fond desire? or should she confident,  
As sitting queen ador'd on beauty's throne,  
Descend with all her winning charms begirt  
T' enamour, as the zone of Venus once



Wrought that effect on Jove, so fables tell; 215  
 How would one look from his majestic brow  
 Seated as on the top of virtue's hill,  
 Discount'nance her despis'd, and put to rout  
 All her array; her female pride deject,  
 Or turn to reverent awe? for beauty  
 stands 220

In th' admiration of weak minds  
 Led captive; cease to' admire, and all her  
 plumes  
 Fall flat and shrink into a trivial toy,  
 At every sudden flighting quite abash'd:  
 Therefore with manlier objects we must  
 try 225

His constancy, with such as have more show  
 Of worth, of honor, glory', and popular  
 praise;

Rocks, whereon greatest men have ofttest  
 wreck'd;

Or that which only seems to satisfy  
 Lawful desires of nature, not beyond; 230

And now I know, he hungers where no food  
 Is to be found, in the wide wilderness;

The rest commit to me, I shall let pass  
 No' advantage, and his strength as oft assay.

He ceas'd, and heard their grant in loud  
 acclame; 235

Then forthwith to him takes a chosen band  
 Of Spirits likest to himself in guile



To be at hand, and at his beck appear,  
 If cause were to unfold some active scene  
 Of various persons, each to know his part; 240  
 Then to the desert takes with these his flight;  
 Where still from shade to shade the Son of  
 God

After forty days fasting had remain'd,  
 Now hungry first, and to himself thus  
 said.

Where will this end? four times ten days  
 I've pass'd 245

Wand'ring this woody maze, and human food  
 Nor tasted, nor had appetite; that fast  
 To virtue I impute not, or count part  
 Of what I suffer here; if nature need not,  
 Or God support nature without repast 250  
 Though needing, what praise is it to indure?  
 But now I feel I hunger, which declares,  
 Nature hath need of what she asks; yet God  
 Can satisfy that need some other way,  
 Though hunger still remain: so it remain 255  
 Without this body's wasting, I content me,  
 And from the sting of famin fear no harm,  
 Nor mind it, fed with better thoughts, that  
 feed

Me hungry more to do my Father's will.

It was the hour of night, when thus the  
 Son 260

Commun'd in silent walk, then laid him down



Under the hospitable covert nigh  
 Of trees thick interwoven; there he slept,  
 And dream'd, as appetite is wont to dream,  
 Of meats and drinks, nature's refreshment  
 sweet; 265

Him thought, he by the brook of Cherith  
 stood,

And saw the ravens with their horny beaks  
 Food to Elijah bringing ev'n and morn,  
 Though ravenous, taught t'abstain from what  
 they brought:

He saw the prophet also how he fled 270

Into the desert, and how there he slept

Under a juniper: then how awak'd,

He found his supper on the coals prepar'd,

And by the Angel was bid rise and eat,

And eat the second time after repose, 275

The strength whereof suffic'd him forty days;

Sometimes that with Elijah he partook,

Or as a guest with Daniel at his pulse.

Thus wore out night, and now the herald lark

Left his ground - nest, high tow'ring to

descry 280

The morn's approach, and greet her with

his song:

As lightly from his grassy couch up rose

Our Saviour, and found all was but a dream,

Fasting he went to sleep, and fasting wak'd.

Up to a hill anon his steps he rear'd, 285



From whose high top to ken the prospect round,  
If cottage were in view, sheep-cote none he  
saw,

Only' in a bottom saw a pleasant grove,  
With chaunt of tuneful birds resounding  
loud; 290

Thither he bent his way, determin'd there  
To rest at noon, and enter'd soon the shade  
High rooft, and walks beneath, and alleys  
brown,

That open'd in the midst a woody scene;  
Nature's own work it seem'd (nature taught  
art) 295

And to a superstitious eye the haunt  
Of Wood-Gods and Wood-Nymphs; he view'd  
it round,

When suddenly a man before him stood,  
Not rustic as before, but seemlier clad,  
As one in city', or court, or palace bred, 300  
And with fair speech these words to him  
address'd.

With granted leave officious I return,  
But much more wonder, that the Son of God  
In this wild solitude so long should bide  
Of all things destitute, and well I know, 305  
Not without hunger. Others of some note,  
As story tells, have trod this wilderness;  
The fugitive bond-woman with her son  
Out-cast Nebaioth, yet found here relief



By a providing Angel; all the race 310  
 Of Israel here had famish'd, had not God  
 Rain'd from Heav'n Manna; and that Pro-  
 phet bold

Native of Thebez wand'ring here was fed  
 Twice by a voice inviting him to eat:  
 Of thee these forty days none hath regard, 315  
 Forty and more deserted here indeed.

To whom thus Jesus. What conclud'st  
 thou hence?

They all had need, as I thou seest have none.

How hast thou hunger then? Satan reply'd.  
 Tell me, if food were now before thee set, 320  
 Would'st thou not eat? Thereafter as I like  
 The giver, answer'd Jesus. Why should that  
 Cause thy refusal? said the subtle Fiend.  
 Hast thou not right to all created things?  
 Owe not all creatures by just right to thee 325  
 Duty and service, not to stay till bid,  
 But tender all their pow'r? nor mention I  
 Meats by the Law unclean, or offer'd first  
 To idols, those young Daniel could refuse;  
 Nor proffer'd by an enemy, though who 330  
 Would scruple that, with want oppress'd?

Behold  
 Nature asham'd, or better to express,  
 Troubled, that thou should'st hunger, hath  
 purvey'd

From all the elements her choicest store



To treat thee as beseems, and as her Lord 335  
With honor, only deign to sit and eat.

He spake no dream, for as his words had  
end,

Our Saviour lifting up his eyes beheld  
In ample space under the broadest shade  
A table richly spread, in regal mode, 340

With dishes pil'd, and meats of noblest sort  
And savor, beasts of chase, or fowl of game,  
In pastry built, or from the spit, or boil'd,  
Gris-amber steam'd; all fish from sea or shore,  
Freshet, or purling brook, of shell or fin, 345  
And exquisitest name, for which was drain'd  
Pontus, and Lucrine bay, and Afric coast.

Alas how simple, to these cates compar'd,  
Was that crude apple that diverted Eve!

And at a stately side-board by the wine 350

That fragrant smell diffus'd, in order stood  
Tall stripling youths rich clad, of fairer hue  
Than Ganymed or Hylas; distant more

Under the trees now tripp'd, now solemn stood  
Nymphs of Diana's train, and Naiades 355

With fruits and flow'rs from Amalthea's horn,  
And ladies of th' Hesperides, that seem'd

Fairer than feign'd of old, or fabled since  
Of faery damsels met in forest wide

By knights of Logres, or of Lyones, 360

Lancelot, or Pelleas, or Pellenore:

And all the while harmonious airs were heard



Of chiming strings, or charming pipes, and  
winds

Of gentlest gale Arabian odors fann'd  
From their soft wings, and Flora's earliest  
smells. 365

Such was the splendor, and the Tempter now  
His invitation earnestly renew'd.

What doubts the Son of God to sit and eat?  
These are not fruits forbidden; no interdict  
Defends the touching of these viands pure; 370  
Their taste no knowledge works at least of evil,  
But life preserves, destroys life's enemy,  
Hunger, with sweet restorative delight.

All these are Spi'rits of air, and woods, and  
springs,

Thy gentle ministers, who come to pay 375  
Thee homage, and acknowledge thee their  
Lord:

What doubt'st thou Son of God? sit down and  
eat.

'To whom thus Iesus temp'rately reply'd.  
Said'st thou not that to all things I had right?  
And who withholds my pow'r that right to  
use? 380

Shall I receive by gift what of my own,  
When and where likes me best, I can com-  
mand?

I can at will, doubt not, as soon as thou,  
Command a table in this wilderness,



And call swift flights of Angels ministrant 385  
Array'd in glory on my cup to' attend:

Why shouldst thou then obtrude this diligence,  
In vain, where no acceptance it can find?

And with my hunger what hast thou to do?

Thy pompous delicacies I contemn, 390

And count thy specious gifts no gifts but guiles.

To whom thus answer'd Satan malecontent.

That I have also pow'r to give thou seest;

If of that pow'r I bring thee voluntary

What I might have bestow'd on whom I

pleas'd, 395

And rather opportunely in this place

Chose to impart to thy apparent need.

Why shouldst thou not accept it? but I see

What I can do or offer is suspect;

Of these things others quickly will dispose, 400

Whose pains have earn'd the far fet spoil.

With that

Both table and provision vanish'd quite

With sound of harpies wings, and talons  
heard;

Only th' importune Tempter still remain'd,

And with these words his temptation pur-  
su'd. 405

By hunger, that each other creature tames,

Thou art not to be harm'd, therefore not  
mov'd;

Thy temperance invincible besides,



For no allurement yields to appetite,  
 And all thy heart is set on high designs, 410  
 High actions; but wherewith to be achiev'd?  
 Great acts require great means of enterprise;  
 Thou art unknown, unfriended, low of birth,  
 A carpenter thy father known, thyself  
 Bred up in poverty and straits at home, 415  
 Lost in a desert here and hunger-bit:  
 Which way or from what hope dost thou aspire  
 To greatness? whence authority deriv'st?  
 What followers, what retinue canst thou gain,  
 Or at thy heels the dizzy multitude, 420  
 Longer than thou canst feed them on thy  
 cost?

Money brings honor, friends, conquest, and  
 realms:

What rais'd Antipater the Edomite,  
 And his son Herod plac'd on Juda's throne.  
 (Thy throne) but gold that got him puissant  
 friends? 425

Therefore, if at great things thou would'st ar-  
 rive,

Get riches first, get wealth, and treasure heap,  
 Not difficult, if thou hearken to me;  
 Riches are mine, fortune is in my hand;  
 They whom I favor, thrive in wealth  
 amain, 430

While virtue, valor, wisdom sit in want.

To whom thus Jesus patiently reply'd.

Yet



Yet wealth without these three is impotent  
To gain dominion, or to keep it gain'd.

Witness those ancient empires of the earth, 435  
In highth of all their flowing wealth dissolv'd:  
But men indued with these have oft attain'd  
In lowest poverty to highest deeds;

Gideon, and Jephtha, and the shepherd lad,  
Whose offspring on the throne of Judah  
sat 440

So many ages, and shall yet regain  
That seat, and reign in Israel without end.

Among the Heathen, (for throughout the world  
To me is not unknown, what hath been done  
Worthy of memorial) canst thou not remem-  
ber 445

Quintius, Fabricius, Curius, Regulus?  
For I esteem those names of men so poor  
Who could do mighty things, and could con-  
temn

Riches though offer'd from the hand of kings.  
And what in me seems wanting, ~~but~~ That I 450  
May also in this poverty as soon

Accomplish what they did, perhaps and  
more?

Extol not riches then, the toil of fools,  
The wise man's cumbrance if not snare, more apt  
To flaken virtue, and abate her edge, 455  
Than prompt her to do ought may merit  
praise.















That might require th' array of war, thy  
skill

Of conduct would be such, that all the world  
Could not sustain thy prowess, or subside

In battel, though against thy few in arms. 20

These God-like virtues wherefore dost thou  
hide,

Affecting private life, or more obscure

In savage wildernels? wherefore deprive

All earth her wonder at thy acts, thyself

The fame and glory, glory the reward 25

That sole excites to high attempts, the flame

Of most erected spi'rits, most temper'd pure

Ethereal, who all pleasures else despise,

All treasures and all gain esteem as dross,

And dignities and pow'rs all but the highest 30

Thy years are ripe, and over-ripe: the son

Of Macedonian Philip had ere these

Won Asia, and the throne of Cyrus held

At his dispose; young Scipio had brought down

The Carthaginian pride; young Pompey

quell'd 35

The Pontic king and in triumph had rode.

Yet years, and to ripe years judgment mature,

Quench not the thirst of glory, but augment.

Great Julius, whom now all the world ad-

mires,

The more he grew in years, the more in-

flam'd 40



With glory, wept that he had liv'd so long  
Inglorious: but thou yet art not too late.

To whom our Saviour calmly thus reply'd.  
Thou neither dost persuade me to seek wealth  
For empire's sake, nor empire to effect 45

For glory's sake by all thy argument.

For what is glory but the blaze of fame,

The peoples praise, if always praise un-  
mix'd?

And what the people but a herd confus'd,

A miscellaneous rabble, who extol 50

Things vulgar, and well weigh'd, scarce  
worth the praise?

They praise, and they admire they know not  
what,

And know not whom, but as one leads the  
other;

And what delight to be by such extoll'd,

To live upon their tongues and be their  
talk, 55

Of whom to be disprais'd were no small  
praise?

His lot who dares be singularly good.

Th' intelligent among them and the wise

Are few, and glory scarce of few is rais'd.

This is true glory and renown, when God 60

Looking on th' earth, with approbation marks

The just man, and divulges him through

Heaven



To all his Angels, who with true applause  
 Recount his praises: thus he did to Job,  
 When to extend his fame through Heav'n and  
 Earth, 65

As thou to thy reproach may'st well remember,  
 He ask'd thee: Hast thou seen my servant  
 Job?

Famous he was in Heav'n, on Earth less  
 known;

Where glory is false glory, attributed  
 To things not glorious, men not worthy' of  
 fame. 70

They err who count it glorious to subdue  
 By conquest far and wide, to over-run  
 Large countries, and in field great battels  
 win,

Great cities by assault: what do these wor-  
 thies,

But rob and spoil, burn, slaughter, and in-  
 slave 75

Peaccable nations, neighb'ring, or remote,  
 Made captive, yet deserving freedom more  
 Than those their conquerors, who leave be-  
 hind

Nothing but ruin wheresoe'er they rove,  
 And all the flourishing works of peace de-  
 stroy, 80

Then swell with pride, and must be titled  
 Gods,



Great Benefactors of mankind, Deliverers,  
 Worshipt with temple, priest and sacrifice;  
 One is the son of Jove, of Mars the other;  
 Till conqu'ror Death discover them scarce

men, 85

Rolling in brutish vices, and deform'd,  
 Violent or shameful death their due reward.

But if there be in glory ought of good,

It may by means far different be attain'd

Without ambition, war, or violence; 90

By deeds of peace, by wisdom eminent,

By patience, temperance: I mention still

Him, whom thy wrongs with faintly patience

borne

Made famous in a land and times obscure;

Who names not now with honor patient

Job? 95

Poor Socrates (who next more memorable?)

By what he taught and suffer'd for so doing,

For truth's sake suffering death unjust, lives

now

Equal in fame to proudest conquerors.

Yet if for fame and glory ought be done, 100

Ought suffer'd; if young African for fame

His wasted country freed from Punic rage,

Thee deed becomes unprais'd, the man at least,

And loses, though but verbal, his reward.

Shall I seek glory then, as vain men

seek, 105



Oft not deserv'd? I seek not mine but his  
Who sent me', and thereby witness whence  
I am.

To whom the Tempter murm'ring thus  
reply'd:

Think not so flight of glory; therein least  
Resembling thy great Father: he seeks  
glory, 110

And for his glory all things made, all things  
Orders and governs; nor content in Heaven  
By all his Angels glorify'd, requires  
Glory from men, from all men good or bad,  
Wise or unwise, no difference, no exem-  
ption; 115

Above all sacrifice, or hallow'd gift  
Glory' he requires, and glory he receives  
Promiscuous from all nations, Jew, or Greek,  
Or barbarous, nor exception hath declar'd;  
From us his foes pronounc'd glory' he ex-  
acts. 120

To whom our Saviour fervently reply'd.  
And reason; since his word all things pro-  
duc'd,

Though chiefly not for glory as prime end,  
But to show forth his goodness, and impart  
His good communicable to every soul 125  
Freely; of whom what could he less expect  
Than glory' and benediction, that is thanks,  
The flightest, easiest, readiest recompense



From them who could return him nothing else'  
 And not returning that would likeliest render 130  
 Contempt instead, dishonor, obloquy?

Hard recompense, unsuitable return

For so much good, so much beneficence.

But why should man seek glory, who' of his  
 own

Hath nothing, and to whom nothing be-  
 longs 135

But contemnation, ignominy', and shame?

Who for so many benefits receiv'd

Turn'd recreant to God, ingrate and false,

And so of all true good himself despoil'd,

Yet, sacrilegious, to himself would take 140

That which to God alone of right belongs;

Yet so much bounty is in God, such grace,

That who advance his glory, not their own,

Them he himself to glory will advance.

So spake the Son of God; and here  
 again 145

Satan had not to answer, but stood struck

With guilt of his own sin, for he himself

Insatiable of glory had lost all,

Yet of another plea bethought him soon.

Of glory, as thou wilt, said he, so  
 deem, 150

Worth or not worth the seeking, let it pass:

But to a kingdom thou art born, ordain'd

To sit upon thy father David's throne;



By mother's side thy father; though thy right  
Be now in pow'rful hands, that will not  
part 155

Easily from possession won with arms:  
Judaea now and all the promis'd land,  
Reduc'd a province under Roman yoke,  
Obeys Tiberius; nor is always rul'd  
With temp'rate sway; oft have they viola-  
ted 160

The temple, oft the law with foul affronts,  
Abominations rather, as did once  
Antiochus: and think'st thou to regain  
Thy right by sitting still or thus retiring?  
So did not Maccabeus: he indeed 165  
Retir'd unto the desert, but with arms;  
And o'er a mighty king so oft prevail'd,  
That by strong hand his family obtain'd,  
Though priests, the crown, and David's  
throne usurp'd,  
With Modin and her suburbs once content. 170  
If kingdom move thee not, let move thee  
zeal

And duty; zeal and duty are not flow;  
But on occasion's forelock watchful wait.  
They themselves rather are occasion best,  
Zeal of thy Father's house, duty to free 175  
Thy country from her Heathen servitude;  
So shalt thou best fulfil, best verify  
The prophets old, who sung thy endless reign;



The happier reign the sooner it begins;  
Reign then; what canst thou better do the  
while? 180

To whom our Saviour answer thus re-  
turn'd.

All things are best fullfill'd in their due time,  
And time there is for all things. Truth hath  
said:

If of my reign prophetic Writ hath told,  
That it shall never end, so when begin 185

The Father in his purpose hath decreed, —

He in whose hand all times and seasons roll.

What if he hath decreed, that I shall first

Be try'd in humble state, and things adverse,

By tribulations, injuries, insults, 190

Contempts, and scorns, and snares, and vio-

lence,

Suffering, abstaining, quietly expecting,

Without distrust or doubt, that he may know

What I can suffer, how obey? who best

Can suffer, best can do; best reign, who

first 195

Well hath obey'd; juſt trial ere I merit

My exaltation without change or end.

But what concerns it thee when I begin

My everlasting kingdom, why art thou

Sollicitous, what moves thy inquisition? 200

Know'st thou not that my rising is thy fall,

And my promotion will be thy destruction?



To whom the Tempter inly rack'd reply'd:  
 Let that come when it comes; all hope is lost  
 Of my reception into grace; what worse? 205  
 For where no hope is left, is left no fear:  
 If there be worse, the expectation more  
 Of worse torments me than the feeling can,  
 I would be at the worst; worst is my port,  
 My harbour and my ultimate repose, 210  
 The end I would attain, my final good,  
 My error was my error, and my crime  
 My crime; whatever for itself condemn'd,  
 And will alike be punish'd, whether thou  
 Reign or reign not; though to that gentle  
                                          brow 215  
 Willingly I could fly, and hope thy reign,  
 From that placid aspect and meek regard,  
 Rather than aggravate my evil state,  
 Would stand between me and thy Father's ire  
 (Whose ire I dread more than the fire of  
                                          Hell) 220  
 A shelter and a kind of shading cool  
 Interposition, as a summers cloud.  
 If I then to the worst that can be haste,  
 Why move thy feet so slow to what is best,  
 Happiest both to thyself and all the world, 225  
 That thou who worthiest art should'st be their  
                                          king?  
 Perhaps thou linger'st in deep thoughts de-  
                                          tain'd



Of th' enterprife so hazardous and high;  
 No wonder, for though in thee be united  
 What of perfection can in man be found, 230  
 Or human nature can receive, consider  
 Thy life hath yet been private, most part  
 spent  
 At home, scarce view'd the Galilean towns,  
 And once a year Jerusalem, few days  
 Short sojourn; and what thence could'st thou  
 observe? 235  
 The world thou hast not seen, much less her  
 glory,  
 Empires, and monarchs, and their radiant  
 courts,  
 Best school of best experience, quickest insight  
 In all things, that to greatest actions lead.  
 The wisest, unexperienc'd, will be ever 240  
 Timorous and loath, with novice modesty,  
 (As he who seeking asses found a kingdom)  
 Irresolute, unhardy, unadventurous:  
 But I will bring thee, where thou soon shalt  
 quit  
 Those rudiments, and see before thine  
 eyes 245  
 The monarchies of th' earth, their pomp and  
 state,  
 Sufficient introduction to inform  
 Thee, of thyself so apt, in regal arts,  
 And regal mysteries, that thou mayst know



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How best their opposition to withstand. 250

With that (such pow'r was giv'n him then)  
he took

The Son of God up to a mountain high.

It was a mountain, at whose verdant feet

A spacious plain out-stretch'd in circuit wide

Lay pleasant; from his side two rivers flow'd, 255

Th'one winding, th' other strait, and left  
between

Fair champain with less rivers intervein'd,

Then meeting join'd their tribute to the sea:

Fertil of corn the glebe, of oil and wine;

With herds the pastures throng'd, with flocks  
the hills; 260

Huge cities and high towr'd, that well might  
seem

The seats of mightiest monarchs, and so large

The prospect was, that here and there was  
room

For barren desert fountainless and dry

To this high mountain top the Tempter  
brought 265

Our Saviour, and new train of words began.

Well have we speeded, and o'er hill and  
dale,

Forest and field and flood, temples and  
towers,

Cut shorter many a league; here thou be-  
hold'st



Assyria and her empire's ancient bounds 270  
 Araxes and the Caspian lake, thence on  
 As far as Indus east, Euphrates west,  
 And oft beyond; to south the Persian bay  
 And inaccessible th' Arabian drouth;  
 Here Nineveh, of length within her wall 275  
 Several days journey, built by Ninus old,  
 Of that first golden monarchy the seat,  
 And seat of Salmanassar, whose success  
 Israel in long captivity still mourns;  
 There Babylon, the wonder of all tongues, 280  
 As ancient; but rebuilt by him who twice  
 Judah and all thy father David's house  
 Led captive, and Jerusalem laid waste,  
 Till Cyrus set them free; Persepolis  
 His city there thou seest, and Bactra there; 285  
 Ecbatana her structure vast there shows,  
 And Hecatomphylos her hundred gates;  
 There Susa by Choaspes, amber stream,  
 The drink of none but kings; of later fame  
 Built by Emathian, or by Parthian hands, 290  
 The great Seleucia, Nisibis, and there  
 Artaxata, Teredon, Ctesiphon,  
 Turning with easy eye thou may'st behold.  
 All these the Parthian, now some ages past,  
 By great Arsaces led, who founded first 295  
 That empire, under his dominion holds,  
 From the luxurious kings of Antioch won.  
 And just in time thou com'st to have a view  
 Of



Of his great pow'r; for now the Parthian  
king

In Ctesiphon hath gather'd all his host 300

Against the Scythian, whose incursions wild  
Have wasted Sogdiana; to her aid

He marches now in haste; see, though from  
far,

His thousands, in what martial equipage

They issue forth, steel bows, and shafts their  
arms 305

Of equal dread in flight, or in pursuit;

All horsemen, in which fight they most  
excel;

See, how in warlike muster they appear,

In rhombs and wedges, and half-moons, and  
wings.

He look'd, and saw what numbers  
numberless 310

The city gates out-pour'd, light armed  
troops

In coats of mail and military pride;

In mail their horses clad, yet fleet and strong,

Prauncing their riders bore, the flow'r and  
choice

Of many provinces from bound to bound 315

From Arachosia, from Candaor east,

And Margiana to the Hyrcanian cliffs

Of Caucasus, and dark Iberian dales,

From Atropatia and the neighb'ring plains



Of Adiabene, Media, and the south 320  
Of Susiana, to Bassara's haven.

He saw them in their forms of battel rang'd,  
How quick they wheel'd, and fly'ing behind  
them shot

Sharp fleet of arrowy show'rs against the face  
Of their pursuers, and overcame by flight; 325  
The field all iron cast a gleaming brown:

Nor wanted clouds of foot, nor on each horn  
Cuirassiers all in steel for standing fight,  
Chariots or elephants indors'd with towers  
Of archers, nor of lab'ring pioneers 330

A multitude with spades and axes arm'd  
To lay hills plain, fell woods, or valleys fill,  
Or where plain was raise hill, or overlay  
With bridges rivers proud, as with a yoke;  
Mules after these, camels and dromedaries, 335  
And waggons fraught with utensils of war.  
Such forces met not, nor so wide a camp,  
When Agrican with all his northern powers  
Besieg'd Albracca, as romances tell,

The city' of Gallaphrone, from thence to  
win 340

The fairest of her sex Angelica  
His daughter, sought by many prowest knights,  
Both Paynim, and the peers of Charlemaiu.  
Such and so numerous was their chivalry;  
At sight whereof the Fiend yet more pre-  
sum'd, 345



And to our Saviour thus his words renew'd.

That thou may'st know, I seek not to  
engage

Thy virtue, and not every way secure  
On no slight grounds thy safety; hear, and  
mark,

To what end I have brought thee hither and  
shown 350

All this fair sight: thy kingdom though fore-  
told

By prophet or by Angel, unless thou  
Endevour, as thy father David did,

Thou never shalt obtain; prediction still  
In all things, and all men, supposes means, 355

Without means us'd, what it predicts revokes.

But say thou wert posses'd of David's throne

By free consent of all, none opposit,

Samaritan or Jew; how could'st thou hope

Long to enjoy it quit and secure, 360

Between two such inclosing enemies

Roman and Parthian? therefore one of these

Thou must make sure thy own, the Parthian

first

By my advice, as nearer, and of late

Found able by invasion to annoy; 365

Thy country', and captive lead away her

kings

Antigonus, and old Hyrcanus bound,

Maugre the Roman: it shal be my task



To render thee the Parthian at dispose;  
 Choose, which thou wilt by conquest or by  
 league. 370

By him thou shalt regain, without him not,  
 That which alone can truly reinstall thee  
 In David's royal seat, his true successor,  
 Deliverance of thy brethren, those ten tribes,  
 Whose offspring in his territory yet serve, 375  
 In Habor, and among the Medes dispers'd;  
 Ten sons of Jacob, two of Joseph lost  
 Thus long from Israel, serving as of old  
 Their fathers in the land of Egypt serv'd,  
 This offer sets before thee to deliver. 380

These if from servitude thou shalt restore  
 To their inheritance, then, nor till then,  
 Thou on the throne of David in full glory,  
 From Egypt to Euphrates and beyond  
 Shalt reign, and Rome or Caesar not need  
 fear. 385

To whom our Saviour answer'd thus unmov'd.  
 Much ostentation vain of fleshly arm,  
 And fragil arms, much instrument of war  
 Long in preparing, soon to nothing brought,  
 Before mine eyes thou' hast set; and in my  
 ear 390

Vented much policy, and projects deep  
 Of enemies, of aids, battels and leagues,  
 Plausible to the world, to me worth nought.  
 Means I must use, thou say'st, prediction else



Will unpredict and fail me of the throne: 395  
My time I told the (and that thime for thee  
Were better farthest off) is not yet come;  
When that comes, think not thou to find me  
flak

On my part ought endeavoring, or to need  
Thy politic maxims, or that cumbersome 400  
Luggage of war there shewn me, argument  
Of human weackness rather than of strength.  
My brethren, as thou call'st them, those ten  
tribes

I must deliver, if I mean to reign  
David's true heir, and his full scepter  
sway, 405

To just extent over all Israel's sons;  
But whence to thee this zeal, where was it  
then

For Israel, or for David, or his throne,  
When thou stood'st up, his tempter to the  
pride

Of numb'ring Israel, which cost the lives 410  
Of threescore and ten thousand Israelites  
By three days pestilence? such was thy zeal  
To Israel then, the same that now to me.  
As for those captive tribes, themselves were  
they

Who wrought their own captivity, fell off 415  
From God to worship calves, the deities  
Of Egypt, Baal next and Ashtaroth,



And all th' idolatries of Heathen round,  
Besides their other worse than heath'nish  
crimes;

Nor in the land of their captivity 420

Humbled themselves, or penitent besought

The God of their forefathers; but so dy'd

Impenitent, and left a race behind

Like to themselves, distinguishable scarce

From Gentiles, but by circumcision vain, 425

And God with idols in their worship join'd.

Should I of these the liberty regard,

Who freed, as tho their ancient patrimony,

Unhumbled, unrepentant, unreform'd,

Headlong would follow'; and to their Gods

perhaps 430

Of Bethel and of Dan? no, let them serve

Their enemies, who serve idols with God.

Yet he at length, time to himself best known,

Remembering Abraham, by some wondrous

call,

May bring them back repentant and sin-

cere, 435

And at their passing cleave th' Assyrian flood,

While to their native land with joy they

haste,

As the Red Sea and Jordan once he cleft,

When to the promis'd land their fathers

pass'd;

To his due time and providence I leave them. 440



So spake Israel's true king, and to the  
Fiend  
Made answer meet, that made void all his  
wiles.  
So fares it when with truth fallhood con-  
tends.

*The End of the Third Book.*

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В О О К IV.

Perplex'd and troubled at his bad success  
The Tempter stood, nor had what to reply,  
Discover'd in his fraud, thrown from his  
hope

So oft, and the persuasive rhetoric  
That fleek'd his tongue, and won so much  
Eve, 5

So little here, nay lost; but Eve was Eve,  
This far his over-match, who self-deceiv'd  
And rash, beforehand had no better weigh'd  
The strength he was to cope with, or his  
own:

But as a man, who had been matchless held to  
In cunning, over-reach'd where least he  
thought,

To salve his credit, and for very spite,  
Still will be tempting him who foils him still,  
And never cease, though to his shame the  
more;

Or as a swarm of flies in vintage time,      15  
About the wine-press, where sweet must is  
pour'd,



Beat off, returns as oft with humming sound;  
 Or surging waves against a solid rock,  
 Though all to shivers dash'd, th' assault renew,  
 Vain batt'ry, and in froth or bubbles end; 20  
 So Satan, whom repulse upon repulse  
 Met ever, and to shameful silence brought,  
 Yet gives not o'er though desp'rate of success,  
 And his vain importunity pursues.

He brought our Saviour to the western  
 side 25  
 Of that high mountain, whence he might  
 behold

Another plain, long but in breadth not wide,  
 Wash'd by the southern sea, and on the  
 north

To equal length back'd with a ridge of  
 hills,

That screen'd the fruits of th' earth and  
 seats of men 30

From cold Septentrion blasts, thence in the  
 midst

Divided by a river, of whose banks  
 On each side an imperial city stood,  
 with tow'rs and temples proudly elevate  
 On sev'n small hills, with palaces adorn'd, 35  
 Porches and theatres, baths, aqueducts,  
 Statues and trophies, and triumphal arcs,  
 Gardens and groves presented to his eyes,  
 Above the highth of mountains interpos'd



By what strange parallax or opic skill 40  
 Of vision multiply'd through air, or glafs  
 Of telescope, were curious to inquire:  
 And now the tempter thus his silence broke.

The city which thou seest no other deem  
 Than great and glorious Rome, queen of the  
 earth 45  
 So far renown'd, and with the spoils  
 enrich'd

Of nations; there the capitol thou seest  
 Above the rest lifting his stately head  
 On the Tarpeian rock, her citadel  
 Impregnable, and there mount Palatine, 50  
 Th' imperial palace, compass huge, and high  
 The structure, skill of noblest architects,  
 With gilded battlements, conspicuous far,  
 Turrets and terraces, and glitt'ring spires.  
 Many a fair edifice besides, more like 55  
 Houses of Gods, (so well I have dispos'd  
 My aery microscope) thou may'st behold  
 Outside and inside both, pillars and roofs,  
 Carv'd work, the hand of fam'd artificers  
 In cedar, marble, ivory or gold.

Thence to the gates cast round thine eye  
 and see, 60

What conflux issuing forth, or entring in,  
 Pretors, proconsuls to their provinces  
 Hast'ning, or on return, in robes of state  
 Lictors and rods, the ensigns of their pow'r, 65



Legions and cohorts, turms of horse and  
wings:

Or embass'es from regions far remote,  
In variou<sup>s</sup> habits on the Appian road,  
Or on th' Emilian, some from farthest south,  
Syene', and where the shadow both way  
falls, 70

Meroe Nilotic ile, and more to west,  
The realm of Bocchus to the Black-moor sea;  
From th' Asian kings and Parthian among  
these,

From India and the golden Chersonese,  
And utmost Indian ile Taprobane, 75  
Dusk faces with white silken turbants wreath'd;  
From Gallia, Gades, and the British west,  
Germans and Scythians, and Sarmatians north  
Beyond Danubius to the Tauric pool.

All nations now to Rome obedience pay, 80  
To Rome's great emperor, whose wide do-  
main

In ample territory, wealth and power,  
Civility of manners, arts and arms,  
And long renown, thou justly may'st prefer  
Before the Parthian; these two thrones ex-  
cept, 85

The rest are barb'rous, and scarce worth the  
fight,

Shar'd among petty kings too far remov'd;  
These having shown thee, I have shown thee all



The kingdoms of the world, and all their  
glory.

This emp'ror hat no son, and now is old, 90  
Old and lascivious, and from Rome retir'd  
To Capreae, an iland small but strong  
On the Campanian shore, with purpose there  
His horrid lusts in private to enjoy,  
Committing to a wicked favorite 95

All public cares, and yet of him suspicious,  
Hated of all, and hating; with what ease,  
Indued with regal virtues as thou art,  
Appearing, and beginning noble deeds,  
Might'st thou expell this monster from his  
throne 100

Now made a stye, and in his place ascending  
A victor people free from servile yoke?  
And with my help thou may'st; to me the  
power

Is giv'n, and by that right I give it thee.  
Aim therefore at no less than all the world 105  
Aim at the high'est, without the high'est  
attain'd

Will be for thee no sitting, or not long,  
On David's throne, be prophecy'd what will.

To whom the Son of God unmov'd re-  
ply'd.

Nor doth this grandeur and majestic show 110  
Of luxury, though call'd magnificence,  
More than of arms before, allure mine eye,



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Much less my mind; though thou should'st  
add to tell

Their sumptuous gluttonies, and gorgeous  
feasts

On citron tables or Atlantic stone 115

(For I have also heard, perhaps have read)

Their wines of Setia, Cales, and Falerne,

Chios and Crete, and how they quaff in  
gold,

Crystal and myrrhine cups imbols'd with  
gems

And studs of pearl, to me should'st tell who  
thirst 120

And hunger still: then embassies thou show'st

From nations, far and nigh; what honour that,

But tedious waste of time to sit and hear

So many hollow complements and lies,

Outlandish flatteries? then proceed'st to  
talk 125

Of th' emperor, how easily subdued,

How gloriously; I shall, thou say'st, expell

A brutish monster: what if I withal

Expell a Devil who first made him such?

Let his tormenter conscience find him out; 130

For him I was not sent, nor yet to free

That people victor once, now vile and base,

Deservedly made vassal, who once just,

Frugal, and mild, and temp'rate, conquer'd  
well,



But govern ill the nations under yoke, 135

Peeling their provinces, exhausted all

By lust and rapin; first ambitious grown

Of triumph, that insulting vanity;

Then cruel, by their sports to blood inur'd

Of fighting beasts, and men to beasts ex-

pos'd, 140

Luxurious by their wealth, and greedier still,

And from the daily scene effeminate.

What wise and valiant man would seek to

free

These thus degenerate, by themselves inflav'd,

Or could of inward slaves make outward

free? 145

Know therefore, when my season comes to sit

On David's throne, it shall be like a tree

Spreading and overshadowing all the earth,

Or as a stone, that shall to pieces dash

All monarchies besides throughout the world, 150

And of my kingdom there shall be no end:

Means there shall be to this, but what the

means,

Is not for thee to know, nor me to tell.

To whom the Tempter impudent reply'd.

I see all offers made by me how slight 155

Thou valuest, because offer'd, and reject'st:

Nothing will please the difficult and nice,

Or nothing more than still to contradict:

On th' other side know also thou, that I



On what I offer set as high esteem, 160  
 Nor what I part with mean to give for nought;  
 All these, which in a moment thou behold'st,  
 The kingdoms of the world to thee I give;  
 For giv'n to me, I give to whom I please,  
 No trifle; yet with this reserve, not else 165  
 On this condition, if thou wilt fall down,  
 And worship me as thy superior lord,  
 Easily done, and hold them all of me;  
 For what can less so great a gift deserve?

Whom thus our Savior answer'd with  
 disdain. 170

I never lik'd thy talk, thy offers less,  
 Now both abhor, since thou hast dar'd to utter  
 Th' abominable terms, impious condition;  
 But I indure the time, till which expir'd,  
 Thou hast permission on me. It is written 175  
 The first of all commandments: Thou shalt  
 worship.

The Lord thy God, and only him shalt serve;  
 And dar'st thou to the Son of God propound  
 To worship thee accurs'd, now more accurs'd  
 For this attempt bolder than that on Eve, 180  
 And more blasphemous? which expect to rue.  
 The kingdoms of the world to thee were given,  
 Permitted rather, and by thee usurp'd;  
 Other donation none thou canst produce:  
 If giv'n, by whom but by the king of  
 kings, 185



God over all supreme? if giv'u to thee,  
 By thee how fairly is the giver now  
 Repaid? But gratitude in thee is lost  
 Long since. Wert thou so void of fear or  
 shame.

As offer them to me the Son of God, 190  
 To me my own, on such abhorred pact,  
 That I fall down and worship thee as God?  
 Get thee behind me; plain thou now appear'st  
 That evil one, Satan for ever damn'd  
 To whom the Fiend with fear abash'd  
 reply'd. 195

Be not so fore offended, Son of God,  
 Though sons of God both Angels are and Men,  
 If I to try whether in higher sort  
 Than these thou bear'st that title, have pro-  
 pos'd

What both from Men and Angels I receive, 200  
 Tetrachs of fire, air, flood, and on the earth  
 Nations besides from all the quarter'd winds,  
 God of this world invok'd and world beneath;  
 Who then thou art, whose coming is foretold  
 To me so fatal, me it most concerns. 205  
 The trial hath indamag'd thee no way,  
 Rather more honor left and more esteem;  
 Me nought advantag'd: missing what I aim'd.  
 'Therefore let pass, as they are transitory,  
 The kingdoms of this world; I shall no  
 more 210

Advise



Advise thee; gain them as thou canst, or not.  
 And thou thyself seem'st otherwise inclin'd  
 Than to a worldly crown, addicted more  
 To contemplation and profound dispute,  
 As by that early action may be judg'd, 215  
 When slipping from thy mother's eye thou  
 went'st

Alone into the temple; there wast found  
 Among the gravest Rabbies disputant  
 On points and questions fitting Moses chair,  
 Teaching not taught; the childhood shows  
 the man, 220

As morning shows the day. Be famous then  
 Be wisdom; as thy empire must extend  
 So let extend thy mind o'er all the world  
 In knowledge, all things in it comprehend:  
 All knowledge is not couch'd in Moses  
 law, 225

The Pentateuch, or wath the Prophets wrote;  
 The Gentiles also know, and write and teach  
 To admiration, led by nature's light;  
 And with the Gentiles much thou must con-  
 verse,

Ruling them by persuasion as thou mean'st; 230  
 Without their learning how wilt thou with  
 them,

Or they with thee hold conversation meet?  
 How wilt thou reason with them, how refute  
 Their idolisms, traditions, paradoxes?



Error by his own arms is best evinc'd. 235

Look once more ere we leave this specular  
mount

Westward, much nearer by southwest, behold  
Where on the Aegean shore a city stands

Built nobly, pure the air, and light the soil,  
Athens the eye of Greece, mother of arts 240

And eloquence, native to famous wits

Or hospitable, in her sweet recess,

City' or suburban, studious walks and shades;

See there the olive grove of Academe,

Plato's retirement, where the Attic bird 245

Trills her thick-warbled notes the summer  
long;

There flow'ry hill Hymettus with the sound

Of bees industrious murmur oft invites

To studious musing; there Ilissus rolls

His whisp'ring stream: within the walls then  
view 250

The schools of ancient sages; his who bred

Great Alexander to subdue the world,

Lyceum there, and painted Stoa next:

There thou shalt hear and learn the secret  
power

Of harmony in tones and numbers hit 255

By voice or hand, and various-measur'd  
verse,

Aeolian charms and Dorian lyric odes,

And his who gave them breath, but higher  
sung,



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Blind Melesigenes thence Homer call'd,  
Whose poem Phoebus challeng'd for his  
own, 260

Thence what the lofty grave tragedians taught.  
In Chorus or Iambic, teachers best  
Of moral prudence, with delight receiv'd  
In brief sententious precepts, while they  
treat

Of fate, and change, and change in human  
life; 265

High actions, and high passions best describ-  
ing:

Thence to the famous orators repair,  
Those ancient, whose resistless eloquence  
Wielded at will that fierce democratie,  
Shook th' arsenal and fulmin'd over Grece 270  
To Macedon and Artaxerxes throne:  
To sage philosophy next lend thine ear,  
From Heav'n descended to the low-rooft  
house

Of Socrates; see there his tenement,  
Whom well inspir'd the oracle pronunc'd 275  
Wiseft of men; from whose mouth issued  
forth

Mellifluous streams, that water'd all the schools  
Of Academics old and new, with those  
Surnam'd Peripatetics, ad the sect  
Epicurean, and the Stoic severe; 280  
These here revolve, or, as thou lik'st, at  
home,



Till time mature thee to a kingdom's  
weight;

These rules will render thee a king complete  
Within thyself, much more with empire  
join'd.

To whom our Saviour sagely thus re-  
plyd. 285

Think not but that I know these things,  
or think

I know them not; not therefore am I short  
Of knowing what I ought: he who receives  
Light from above, from the fountain of  
light,

No other doctrin needs, though granted  
true; 290

But these are false, or little else but dreams,  
Conjectures, fancies, built on nothing firm.  
The first and wisest of them all profess'd  
To know this only, that he nothing knew;  
The next to fabling fell and smooth con-  
ceits; 295

A third sort doubted all things, though plain  
sense;

Others in virtue plac'd felicity,

But virtue join'd with riches and long life;  
In corporal pleasure he, and careless ease;  
The Stoic last in philosophic pride, 300  
By him call'd virtue; and his virtuous man,  
Wife, perfect in himself, and all possessing,  
Equals to God, oft shames not to prefer,



As fearing God nor man, contemning all  
Wealth, pleasure, pain or torment, death  
and life, 305

Which when he lists, he leaves, or boasts  
he can.

For all his tedious talk is but vain boast,  
Or subtle shifts conviction to evade.

Alas what can they teach, and not mislead,  
Ignorant of themselves, of God much  
more, 310

And how the world began, and how man  
fell

Degraded by himself, on grace depending?  
Much of the soul they talk, but all awry,  
And in themselves seek virtue, and to them-  
selves

All glory arrogate, to God give none, 315  
Rather accuse him under usual names,  
Fortune and Fate, as one regardless quite  
Of mortal things. Who therefore seeks in  
these

True wisdom, finds her not, or by delu-  
sion

Far worse, her false resemblance only  
meets, 320

An empty cloud. However many books,  
Wise men have said, are wearisome; who  
reads

Incessantly, and to his reading brings not  
A spirit and judgment equal or superior,



(And what he brings, what needs he else-  
where seek?) 325

Uncertain and unsettled still remains,  
Deep vers'd in books and shallow in him-  
self,

Crude or intoxicate, collecting toys,  
And trifles for choice matters, worth a sponge;  
As children gathering pebbles on the shore 330

Or if I would delight my private hours  
With music or with poem, where so soon  
As in our native language, can I find  
That solace? All our law and story strow'd  
With hymns, our psalms with artful terms  
inscrib'd, 335

Our Hebrew songs and harps in Babylon,  
That pleas'd so well our victors ear, declare,  
That rather Greece from us these arts deriv'd;  
Ill imitated, while they loudst sing  
The vices of their Deities, and their own 340  
In fable, hymn, or song, so personating  
Their Gods ridiculous, and themselves past  
shame.

Remove their swelling epithets thick laid  
As varnish on a harlot's cheek, the rest,  
Thin sown with ought of profit or de-  
light, 345

Will far be found unworthy to compare  
With Sion's songs, to all true tastes excel-  
ling,

Where God is prais'd aright, and God-like  
me ♫,



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The Holiest of Holies, and his Saints;  
Such are from God inspir'd, not such from  
thee, 350

Unless where moral virtue is express'd  
By light of nature not in all quite lost.  
Their orators thou then extoll'st, as those  
The top of eloquence, statists indeed,  
And lovers of their country, as may seem; 355  
But herein to our prophets far beneath,  
As men divinely taught, and better teaching  
The solid rules of civil government  
In their majestic unaffected stile  
Than all the' oratory of Greece and Rome 360  
In them is plainest and easiest learnt,  
What makes a nation happy', and keeps  
it so,

What ruins kingdoms, and lays cities flat;  
These only with our law best form a king.  
So spake the Son of God; but Satan  
now 365

Quite at a loss, for all his darts were spent,  
Thus to our Saviour with stern brow re-  
ply'd.

Since neither wealth, nor honour, arms  
nor arts,  
Kingdom nor empire pleases thee, nor ought  
By me propos'd in life contemplative, 370  
Or active, tended on by glory', or fame,  
What dost thou in this world? the wilder-  
ness



For thee is fittest place; I found thee there,  
And thither will return thee; yet remember  
What I foretell thee, soon thou shalt have  
cause

To wish thou never hadst rejected thus  
Nicely or cautiously my offer'd aid,  
Which would have set thee in short time  
with ease

On David's throne, or throne of all the  
world,

Now at full age, fulness of time, thy sea-  
son, 380

When prophecies of thee are best fulfill'd.  
Now contrary, if I read ought in Heaven,  
Or Heav'n write ought of fate, by what the  
stars

Voluminous, or single characters,  
In their conjunction met, give me to spell, 385  
Sorrows, and labors, opposition, hate  
Attends thee, scorns, reproaches, injuries,  
Violence and stripes, and lastly cruel death;  
A kingdom they portend thee, but what king-  
dom,

Real or allegoric I discern not, 390  
Nor when, eternal sure, as without end,  
Without beginning; for no date prefix'd  
Directs me in the starry rubric set.

So say'ing he took (for still he knew his  
power

Not yet expir'd) and to the wildernefs 395



Brought back the Son of God, and left him  
there,

Feigning to disappear. Darkneſs now roſe,  
As day-light ſunk, and brought in louring  
night

Her ſhadowy offspring, unſubſtantial both,  
Privation mere of light and abſent day. 400

Our Saviour meek and with untroubled mind  
After his aery jaunt, though hurried fore,  
Hungry and cold betook him to his reſt,  
Wherever, under ſome concourſe of ſhades,  
Whoſe branching arms thick intertwin'd might  
ſhield 405

From dewſ and dampſ of night his ſhelter'd  
heard,

But ſhelter'd ſlept in vain, for at his head  
The Tempter watch'd, and ſoon with ugly  
dreams

Diſturb'd his ſleep; and either tropic now  
'Gan thunder, and both ends of Heav'n, the  
clouds 410

From many a horrid rift abortive pour'd  
Fierce rain with lightnig mix'd water with  
fire

In ruin reconcil'd: nor ſlept the winds  
Within their ſtony caves, but ruſh'd abroad  
From the four hinges of the world, and  
fell 415

On the vex'd wilderneſs, whole tall'eſt pines,  
Though rooted deep as high, and ſturdieſt  
oaks



Bow'd their stiff neeks, loaden with stormy  
 blasts,

Or torn up sheer: ill wast thou shrouded then,  
 O patient Son of God, yet only stood'st 420

Unhaken; nor yet stay'd the terror there,  
 Infernal ghosts, and Hellish furies, round  
 Environ'd thee, some howl'd, some yell'd,  
 some shriek'd,

Some bent at tee their fiery darts, while thou  
 Sadst unappall'd in calm and sinless peace. 425

Thus pass'd the night so foul, till morning fair  
 Came fort with pilgrim steeps in amice gray,  
 Who with her radiant finger still'd the roar.

Of thunder, chas'd the clouds, and laid the  
 winds,

And grisly spectres, which the fiend had  
 rais'd 430

To tempt the Son of God with terrors dire.

And now the sun with more effectual beams  
 Had chear'd the face of earth, and dry'd wet  
 From drooping plant, or dropping tree; the  
 birds,

Who all things now behold more fresh and  
 green, 435

After a night of storm so ruinous,

Clear'd up their choicest notes in bush and  
 spray

To gratulate the sweet return of morn;  
 Nor yet amidst this joy and brightest morn

Was absent, after all his mischief done, 440



The prince of darknes, glad would also seem  
 Of this fair change, and to our Saviour came,  
 Yet with no new device, they all were spent,  
 Rather by this his last affront resolv'd,  
 Desp'rate of better course, to vent his rage, 445  
 And mad despite to be so oft repell'd.  
 Him walking on a sunny hill he found,  
 Back'd on the north and west by a thick  
 wood;

Out of the wood he starts in wonted shape,  
 And in a careless mood thus to him said. 450

Fair morning yet betides thee, Son of  
 God,

After a dismal night; I heard the wrack  
 As earth and sky would mingle; but myself  
 Was distant; and these flaws, though mortals  
 fear them

As dang'rous to the pillar'd frame of Hea-  
 ven, 455

Or to the earth's dark basis underneath,  
 Are to the main as inconsiderable,  
 And harmless, if not wholesome, as a sneeze  
 To man's less universe, and soon are gone;  
 Yet as being oft times noxious where they  
 light 460

On man, beast, plant, wastful and turbulent,  
 Like turbulencies in th' affairs of men,  
 Over whose heads they roar, and seem to  
 point,

They oft fore-signify and threaten ill:



This tempest at this desert most was bent; 465  
 Of men at thee, for only thou here dwell'st.  
 Did I not tell thee, if thou didst reject  
 The perfect season offer'd with my aid  
 To win thy destin'd seat, but wilt prolong  
 All to the push of fate, pursue thy way 470  
 Of gaining David's throne no man knows  
 when,

For both the when and how is no where told,  
 Thou shalt be, what thou art ordain'd, no  
 doubt;

For Angels have proclam'd it, but concealing  
 The time and means: each act is rightliest  
 done; 475

Not when it must, but when it may be best.  
 If thou observe not this, be sure to find,  
 What I foretold thee, many a hard assay  
 Of dangers, and adversities, and pains,  
 Ere thou of Israel's scepter get fast hold; 480  
 Whereof this ominous night, that clos'd thee  
 round,

So many terrors, voices, prodigies  
 Many warn thee, as a sure fore-going sign.  
 So talk'd he, while the Son of God went on  
 And stay'd not, but in brief him answer'd  
 thus: 485

Me worse than wet thou find'st not other  
 harm

Those terrors which thou speak'st of, did me  
 none;



I never fear'd they could, though noising loud  
 And threatning nigh; what they can do as sings  
 Betokening, or ill boding. I contemn 490  
 As false portents, not sent from God, but thee;  
 Who knowing I shall reign past thy preventing,  
 Obtrud'st thy offer'd aid, that I accepting  
 At least might seem to hold all pow'r of thee,  
 Ambitious Spi'rit, and woulst be thought my  
 God, 495  
 And storm'st refus'd, thinking to terrify  
 Me to thy will; desist, thou art discern'd  
 And toil'st in vain, nor me in vain molest.

To whom the Fiend now swoln with rage  
 reply'd.

Then hear, O Son of David, Virgin born; 500  
 For Son of God to me is yet in doubt:  
 Of the Messiah I have heard foretold  
 By all the Prophets; of thy birth at length  
 Announc'd by Gabriel with the first I knew,  
 And of th'angelic song in Bethlem field, 505  
 On thy birth-night, that sung thee Saviour  
 born.

From that time seldom have I ceas'd to eye  
 Thy infancy, thy childhood, and thy youth,  
 Thy manhood last, though yet in private bred;  
 Till at the ford of Jordan whither all 510  
 Flock'd to the Baptist, I among the rest,  
 Though not to be baptiz'd, by voice from  
 Heaven



Heard thee pronunc'd the Son of God belov'd.  
Thenceforth I thought thee worth my nearer  
view

And narrower scrutiny, that I might learn 515  
In what degree or meaning thou art call'd  
The Son of God, which bears no single sense;  
The Son of God I also am, or was,  
And if I was, I am; relation stands;

All men are Sons of God; yet thee I  
thought 520  
In some respect far higher so declar'd.

Therefore I watch'd thy footsteps from that  
hour,

And follow'd thee still on to this waste wild;  
Where by all best conjectures I collect  
'Thou art to be my fatal enemy 525

Good reason then, if I before-hand seek  
To understand my adversary, who  
And what he is: his wisdom, pow'r, intent;  
By parl, or composition, truce, or league  
To win him, or win from him what I  
can. 530

And opportunity I here have had  
To try thee, sift thee, and confess, have found  
thee

Proof against all temptation, as a rock  
Of adamant, and as a center, firm,  
To th' utmost of mere man both wise and  
good, 535



Not more; for honors, riches, kingdoms, glory  
Have been before contemn'd, and may again:  
Therefore to know what more thou art than  
man,

Worth naming Son of God by voice from  
Heaven,

Another method I must now begin. 540

So say'ing he caught him up, and without  
wing

Of hippogrif bore through the air sublime

Over the wilderness and o'er the plain;

Till underneath them fair Jerusalem,

The holy city lifted high her towers, 545

And higher yet the glorious temple rear'd

Her pile, far off appearing like a mount

Of alabaster, topt with golden spires:

There on the highest pinnacle he set

The Son of God, and added thus in scorn. 550

The stand, if thou wilt stand; to stand  
upright

Will ask thee skill; I to thy Father's house

Have brought thee', and highest plac'd, highest  
is best,

Now show thy progeny; if not to stand,

Cast thyself down; safely, if Son of God: 555

For it is written, He will give command

Concerning thee to his Angels, in their hands

They shall up lift thee, lest at any time

Thou chance to dash thy foot against a stone.



To whom thus Jesus; Also it is written, 560  
Tempt not the Lord thy God: he said and  
stood;

But Satan smitten with amazement fell.

As when earth's son Antaeus (to compare  
Small things with greatest) in Irassa strove  
With Jove's Alcides, and of foil'd still rose, 565  
Receiving from his mother earth new strength,  
Fresh from his fall, and fiercer grapple join'd,  
Throttled at length in th' air, expir'd and fell;  
So after many a foil the Tempter proud,  
Renewing fresh assaults, amidst his pride 570  
Fell whence he stood to see his victor fall.  
And as that Theban monster that propos'd  
Her riddle', and him, who solv'd it not,  
devour'd,

That once found out and solv'd, for grief  
and spite

Cast herself headlong from th' Ismenian  
steep; 575

So struck with dread and anguish fell the  
Fiend,

And to his crew, that sat consulting, brought  
Joyless triumphals of his hop'd success,

Ruin, and desperation, and dismay,

Who durst so proudly tempt the Son of  
God. 580

So Satan fell; and strait a fiery globe

Of Angels on full sail of wing flew nigh,



Who on their plummy vans receiv'd him soft  
From his uneasy station, and upbore  
As on a floating couch through the blithe  
air, 585

Then in a flow'ry valley set him down  
On a green bank, and sed before him spread  
A table of celestial food, divine,  
Ambrosial fruits, fetch'd from the tree of life,  
And from the fount of life ambrosial drink, 590  
That soon refresh'd him wearied, and repair'd,  
What hunger, if ought hunger had impair'd,  
Or thirst; and as he fed, angelic quires  
Sung heav'nly anthems of his victory  
Over temptation, and the Tempter proud. 595

True Image of the Father, whether thron'd  
In the bosom of bliss, and light of light  
Conceiving, or remete from Heav'n, inshrin'd  
In fleshly tabernacle, and human form,  
Wand'ring the wilderness, whatever place, 600  
Habit, or state, or motion, still expressing  
The Son of God, with God-like force indued  
Against th' attempter of thy Father's throne  
And thief of Paradise; him long of old  
Thou didst debase, and down from Heaven  
cast 605

With all his army, now thou hast aveng'd  
Supplanted Adam, and by vanquishing  
Temptation, hast regain'd lost Paradise;  
And frustrated the conquest fraudulent:



He never more henceforth will dare set  
 foot 610

In Paradise to tempt; his snares are broke:  
 For though that seat of earthly blifs be fail'd,  
 A fairer Paradise is founded now  
 For Adam and his chosen sons, whom thou  
 A Saviour art come down to re-install, 615  
 Where they shall dwell secure, when time  
 shall be,

Of Tempter and temptation without fear.  
 But thou, infernal Serpent, shalt not long  
 Rule in the clouds; like an autumnal star  
 Or lightning thou shalt fall from Heav'n,  
 trod down 620

Under his feet: for proof, ere this thou  
 feel'st

Thy wound, yet not thy last and deadliest  
 wound,

By this repulse receiv'd, and hold'st in Hell  
 No triumph; in all her gates Abaddon rues  
 Thy bold attempt; hereafter learn with  
 awe 625

To dread the Son of God: he all unarm'd  
 Shall chace thee with the terror of his voice  
 From thy demoniac holds, possession foul,  
 Thee and thy legions; yelling they shall fly,  
 And beg to hide them in a herd of swine, 630  
 Left he command them down into thee deep  
 Bound, and to torment sent before their time.







That he was the most high, both of both

the other of them, on the ground that

Now, when he began to take his journey

Thus, then, the son of God, and the Son

of God, who was from heaven, fell with

him, in a way, which was the way

Home to his mother's house, and to

his father's house, and to his mother's

house, and to his father's house, and to

his mother's house, and to his father's

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Milton, John,

Paradise lost a poem in twelve books

Bd.: 2

Gotha (1805)

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